

15th July 2015



Dear Parents/Carers

RE: Getting prepared for the new Academic Year 2015 – 2016

The staff at Torpoint Community College wanted to say a big thank you to all parents and carers for their fantastic support again this year. We have enjoyed meeting you at parents evening and Academic Review Days in the Autumn and Spring Terms to allow us to review the great progress made by your child and agree together the best possible support if needed.

We hope your child has a great summer holiday and we look forward to seeing our young people come back in September, ready for another year of learning and success, following what we know are going to be great results in our year 11 GCSE exams and A Levels. We are also very much looking forward to seeing everyone come back in their beautiful smart uniform including their blazers, shirts and ties.

We wanted to take this opportunity to remind parents about a few messages to help them get ready for the new term. Even though the overwhelming views of students is that they themselves report they feel safe at the College, safeguarding remains a priority. Should there be, however, any concerns that you do not feel confident to report in person, the College has developed a confidential email address: worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk.

The attachment contains information for you to read to prepare your son/daughter for the new academic year 2015-16.

- TCC Uniform
- TCC is a Healthy School
- Equipment needed for TCC
- Assessment and Feedback – DIRT
- Homework: Show My Homework
- Information and Communication
- First Point of Contact
- Use of Phone and E-Safety
- New to TCC
- The College Development Plan
- Sixth Form at TCC

The College publishes information in its newsletter, on its website and via the College's Facebook page.

Please email enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk if you have any further queries.

Sincerest thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



On behalf of the College Leadership Team
Torpoint Community College

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- **TCC Uniform**

Black College blazer, with logo, purchased from SWI.

Clip on Navy/Sky striped tie also purchased via SWI.

Trousers and skirts: Skirts need to be black and a classic style that is either straight or pleated. They should not be tight, have a slit or made of a stretch fabric. The hem should be no more than 5cm above the knee. Trousers are also to be black and in a classic style. They should be straight and **not** tight, bootleg, drainpipe, 'jeans' style or 'low-rise.'

Jewellery: One small discreet stud may be worn in each ear. No facial piercing. A wristwatch may be worn but no bracelets. Jewellery must be removed for PE.

Hair-cuts/ornaments: No extremes of hair colour or style are allowed. Plain hairbands may be worn.

White shirts: can be either long or short sleeved, they must be non-transparent and have buttons all the way up to the collar (in order for the clip on tie to be attached).

Please ensure all uniform is named.

For a comprehensive list of the new uniform please see our website:

<http://www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk/uniform-dress-code/>

- **TCC is a Healthy School**

At Torpoint Community College we believe that all our learners have the right to be physically, mentally, and socially healthy and to learn in an environment that promotes this ethos and allows them to reach to their full potential. We are reaccruited as a Healthy School and hold the Healthy School Plus award also. We know that healthy students are better learners and we flourish in every opportunity to support this. We understand that being a Healthy School is much more than just healthy eating and physical activity but rather a healthy school is one that works together, going beyond the classroom and involving the whole community. At TCC we pride ourselves in ensuring all our learners are supported to be physically, mentally and socially healthy and that they develop the necessary life skills for long-term success.

To this end, we ask that students do not bring any coke or energy drinks into College. Coke and energy drinks contain zero nutrients, and are high in calories and sugar. Studies show a strong link between soda consumption and childhood obesity. As well as this, studies show a direct link between tooth decay and soda, this is because not only does the sugar cause cavities, the acids in soda etch off tooth enamel. Acid can begin to dissolve tooth enamel in only 20 minutes. Dentists are reporting complete loss of the enamel on the front teeth in teenaged boys and girls who habitually drink sodas. Phosphorus, a common ingredient in soda, can deplete bones of calcium and lead to long brittle bones. Furthermore, Caffeine found in coke and energy drinks is known to create physical dependence and upsets the normal balance of neurochemistry in the developing brains of children. Caffeine stimulates the adrenal gland without providing the nourishment it needs. In large amounts, caffeine can lead to adrenal exhaustion, especially in children.

- **Equipment needed for TCC**

Students are expected to have the following equipment with them in every lesson:

Pens and pencils (HB and 2B)

Pencil sharpener and rubber

Ruler, protractor and compass

Reading book

Scientific calculator (Casio fx-83 recommended if one needs purchasing)

Pocket dictionary

Colouring pencils, glue stick and scissors (optional, but useful)

- **Assessment and Feedback DIRT**

One of the ways in which we help each student to make great progress at Torpoint is through **Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time**, or DIRT. When students have their work assessed, teachers will give students specific, subject-related feedback on what they have to do to improve. They will then be given time in lessons to make that improvement and, often, comment on how they have done it. This is a genuine dialogue between staff and student about how to make progress and improve work.

- **Homework: Show My Homework**

All teachers and students use the website Show My Homework to set and record homework. In September every Year 7 student and parent will be given their own unique login details. This will allow them to check their individual homework on any computer, tablet or smartphone. There is a free app for iPhone and Android to make this even easier. It will send students reminders of when homework is due in and allow teachers to attach resources to help students complete the homework. Show My Homework can also be accessed through the school website. Every lunchtime Ms Goodacre runs Homework Club in Room 19 to help students use technology to access their homework. There are also pages in the Student Planner if students want to write down their homework.

- **Information and Communication at TCC**

We endeavour to reply to all email or letters to the College as soon as possible and certainly within three working days or sooner.

- **First point of contact:**

- Tutors: All staff email addresses will be their surname followed by their initial @torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk
e.g. Miss C Lindup will be lindup.c@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk
- Heads of House:

Freathy: Pease.c@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk
Tregantle: Howard.j@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk
Polhwan: Davey.m@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk
Tregonhawke: Childs.j@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

- **Use of Phone and E Safety:**

As the summer approaches and preparations for the new academic year begin it is important to consider student's mobile phone and internet access. As we know these devices can be a fantastic way to communicate and gain knowledge but as reported in the news there are potential dangers. All students have received e-safety training covering; cyberbullying, child exploitation and most recently, anti-extremism.

We advise all parents to:

- Regularly monitor your child's internet use
- Check privacy settings
- Report any concerns to the relevant agency (see link below).

<http://www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk/e-safety/>

Parents are reminded that students bring mobile phones and other devices onto College property at their own risk and must adhere to the College acceptable use policy at all times.

We fully support parents to be proactive in safeguarding their children and close any accounts which may be putting them at risk.

- **New to TCC**

For all parents/carers of our new students who will be joining us in September 2015 the new uniform will be available to order from SWI online at <http://www.swischoolwear.co.uk/> from 13th July 2015. For anyone who does not have access to the internet then blank order forms are available from the College.

Who is in on what day:

Thursday 3rd September 2015 – Sixth form induction
Friday 4th September 2015 – Year 7, 10 and 12 return
Monday 7th September 2015 – All year groups return

- **The College Development Plan (Plan for Continuous Improvement PCI)**

Each year the College focuses on key aspects of its work that have emerged as needing further development from all the evaluations we do. Although there are other areas that are developed across the College throughout the year, these four are priorities for all staff; teachers and students. In 2015 – 16, these will be

- Relevant homework/independent tasks will have a demonstrable positive impact on students' learning
- We build on students learning from one key stage to another with an emphasis on that in KS2
- We challenge all individuals and groups to achieve more eg most able, Ever 6 FSM (PP), disadvantaged
- We enable students to develop literacy and numeracy skills relevant to all future pathways

- **Sixth Form at TCC**

We are pleased to say that in a recent report for Cornwall Council which compares all the Sixth Forms in Cornwall against national data we were:

- 1st in the County for Business, Media Studies and French
- 2nd in the County for English Literature & Language and Physics
- 3rd in the County for Literature and 4th for Chemistry
- 5th in the County for Maths and Biology
- We are doing well across the board in all subjects and our current predictions for this year look like we will continue making this progress.

This is no small achievement and shows that we are still absolutely the best place for students to study A Levels in this area and we are very much a successful Sixth Form.