

September 2015



Dear Parent and Carer

Welcome back to everyone and a particular welcome to parents and carers of students new to TCC. The beginning of term has been positive. Staff have been commenting how impressed they are with students' attitudes and behaviour.

The new **uniform** has been an overwhelming success. Feedback from parents and local community is about how smart TCC students look. A special thank you to all those who have helped make this a smooth transition. I know that everyone is working hard to make sure this is a uniform to be proud of wearing and following on from the extensive consultation put in place over the last few years, there will be requests for further feedback via specific surveys. Watching the students on the first day of term walk up to the College resplendent in their new uniform was a proud moment for all. Thank you all so much for the time and efforts you took to get your child ready for the new academic year. The College would like to say a huge thank you for all efforts to abide by the uniform code of TCC.

A special mention to our last year's Year 11 and outgoing Year 13s: the results of **exams** proved, yet again, that the students at this College are successful and go on to achieve great things. For the fourth year running, we had our best results, way above national average in a number of areas including Maths, English, 5A\* A, Progress and Value Added. Although the results are not yet finalised, nearly two-thirds of our year 11s gained 5 or more A\*-C including English and Maths at GCSE level and from our Sixth Form over two-thirds have gone on to university or college courses with others starting careers, training and employment. Well done! We are both proud of you all and wish you well on your next steps!

The use of **mobile phones, music and other electronic or digital devices** at TCC is an issue we are constantly reviewing to make sure that our students have the best learning environment. Students have been informed about the policy in place and we are pleased that parents and carers are supporting this. Although further details about our policy can be found on the College website, I want to clarify that personal headphones are **not** to be used in College inside the buildings partly for health and safety reasons and students will be directed by their teachers for use in exceptional circumstance e.g. online assessments. Mobile phone technology and other technologies can be used for learning at the discretion of the teacher only and in designated areas at designated times (break and lunch time, in the canteen) only. In line with national research and our own findings we are constantly reviewing the impact on learning. We expect students to use this powerful technology responsibly.

#### Behaviour Policy

There will be occasions when as a parent or carer, **communication** with the College is needed. We ask parents and carers (and friends) not to contact students during lesson times on mobile phones which are 8.45am until 1.30pm then again 2.20pm until 3.20pm. Lesson times are for learning and our aim is to remove distractions. Should you need to contact your son or daughter and in case of an emergency, please use the College Reception on **01752 812511**. We will ensure that all messages are responded to.

## Cashless Catering

As I'm sure you are aware the College is introducing Cashless Catering on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October which means no cash will be accepted for purchases made in the Dining Hall (with the exception of drinks from the vending machines) from this date. This system has been set up with ParentPay so you can place credit on to your son/daughter's account in the same way you currently pay for trips, visits and activities.

Thank you for the biometric consent forms returned to date; there are still a number of consent forms outstanding which I would be grateful if you could return to the College's Main Reception as soon as possible, and by no later than 5<sup>th</sup> October. I hope you see the introduction of Cashless Catering as a welcome addition to the College. You will be able to monitor what your child/children purchase from the Dining Hall, change maximum spend limits, and for those in receipt of Free School Meals there will be no means of other students recognising who they are as the purchasing process is identical to all other students i.e. using the biometric system or a PIN. Please note free school meal students will have credit added to their account daily, which can be spent during break/lunch time, and any unspent balance will be cleared at the end of the school day. Further details on the Cashless Catering System can be found on the College website at <http://www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk/cashless-catering/>.

## Development Plan priorities

Priorities all staff for 2015 - 2016

- 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 and support all individuals and groups to achieve more e.g. staff, more able, Ever 6 FSM (PP), disadvantaged
- We enable students to develop literacy and numeracy skills relevant to all future pathways

I know that all at the College are looking forwards to a positive year, working with and celebrating the talented students here.

Yours sincerely



Andrea Hazeldine  
Headteacher

## Information about the new TCC uniform: Look smart, feel smart, be smart.

Research into the impact of wearing a smart school uniform suggests that there are numerous benefits, ranging from decreasing incidents of bullying to improving behaviour and attitudes to learning. We are a College that value high standards in all that we do to ensure the best possible outcomes for students and the new uniform is an important part of our commitment to this ethos.

Thank you for all your comments. We use them to best devise changes and ways forward where needed. We always look to work with you to achieve maximum outcome. We also use educational research, conducted by the top educational institutions, to ensure that we make the best choices for our students.

A comprehensive listing of the uniform policy at this College can be found on the College's website.

- **Footwear**

We understand it is sometimes difficult to source the appropriate footwear and to help you, we have added some photos of examples of school shoes which are suitable.

Some retailers advertise some of their black leather trainers as 'school shoes' and this makes our job at TCC sometimes very difficult. So please bear these examples in mind when next replacing your child's school shoes for TCC.



Please contact us, if in doubt, when the time comes to replace school shoes. We want to continue to work closely with parents and carers in order to maximise success for all.

- **Shirts**

Girl's and boy's shirts need to be loose fitting and long enough to be tucked in as well as not see through.

- **Labelling**

Please add the names or initials of your son/daughter to all the items of clothing that constitutes the uniform, mainly blazer, ties and PE Kit. This will help identify the owner if lost.

- **Trousers and skirts**

Trousers and skirts are to be in line with the uniform code published on the website.

- **Returning temporary replacements**

Please could parents and carers of Year 7 students, who needed to borrow temporary blazers and ties as a result of the supplier SWI issues, return these blazers and ties they once they have received their order.

- **PE kit**

The new PE kit is only compulsory for Year 7 students, however every other year group is welcome to purchase it at their own discretion.

- **Removal of blazers**

Blazers are to be worn at all times including inside the canteen.

The only exception to this rule is when a teacher or member of staff gives permission for blazers to be removed in their classroom.

Thank you to all students for taking such pride in their new uniform.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Blandin', written over a horizontal line.

Miss M. Blandin

Senior Assistant Headteacher