

18th July 2016



Inspiring Optimistic Learners

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: **Getting prepared for the new Academic Year 2016 – 2017**

Thank you to all parents and carers for their fantastic support again this year. We have enjoyed meeting you at Parents Evenings and Academic Review Days in the Autumn and Spring Terms, which allowed us to review your child's 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 and following what we know is going to be great results in our year 11 GCSE exams and A Levels. We are also very much looking forward to seeing everyone, including Year 11, come back in their smart new uniform. May we remind you that students are to wear the blazers at all times in the corridors, canteen and generally on the College site unless they have been given permission in a classroom to take it off.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers about a few things to help them get ready for the new term. Our students always report that they feel safe at the College, and safeguarding always remains a priority. However should there be 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. This website is overseen by members of the Student Support Team and senior managers.

The attachment contains information for you to read to prepare your son/daughter for the new Academic Year 2016-17.

- Change to the internal timings of the College Day
- TCC Uniform
- TCC: a Healthy School and Student Wellbeing
- Equipment needed for TCC
- Assessment and Feedback – DIRT
- Homework: Show My Homework Website
- Information and Communication
- First Point of Contact
- Use of Phone and E-Safety
- New to TCC
- The College Development Plan Priorities
- Multi Academy Trust Status
- 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

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- **Change to the timings of the internal College Day**

After consultation with staff, students, parents and governors the decision is to make some changes to the internal timings of the College day:

8.45am – 9.10am	Tutor time (25 minutes – a reduction in the tutor time of 30 minutes)
9.10am – 10.10am	Lesson 1
10.10am – 11.10am	Lesson 2
11.10am – 11.30am	Morning break (20 minutes – an extension of the current 15 minute morning breaktime)
11.30am onwards	is as usual with no change

College begins at 8.45am

College ends at 3.20pm

- **TCC Uniform**

Year 7 to Year 11 students to wear new uniform from September 2016

Black College Blazer: with logo (as purchased via SWI).

White Collared Shirt: tucked into trousers or skirts (not see through). (Plain skin coloured vest tops maybe worn underneath the shirts)

College Tie: Clip on navy/sky striped (as purchased via SWI).

Skirts: Black “classic” style skirt that is either straight or pleated. Skirts should not be tight or made of stretch fabric. The hem of the skirt should be no more than 5cm above the knee. The skirts provided by SWI are optional for Year 8 to Year 11 and compulsory for year 7 as the skirt of choice.

Trousers: Plain, black “classic” style trousers. These should be straight legged and not tight. There should be no large belts, zips on the sides or buckles. Trousers should not be made out of a denim fabric, chino’s or leather. For example, the trousers currently sold with zips on the side and of stretchy material will not conform with our policy and will lead to sanctions if worn at the College.

Shorts: Plain black “city” shorts or tailored black shorts. Not cargo style or sports shorts.

Shoes: Black shoes of sensible design with low heels. Shoes should protect and support feet to comply with the College’s Health & Safety Regulations. No trainers, flat pumps, canvas, stilettos or platform shoes. Shoes must be either made from leather or leather effect and be polishable.

Tights and Socks: Tights – black, or flesh coloured. Socks – plain black, or grey.

Hats and Head Covering: No hats to be worn in College unless medical reasons are provided. The wearing of a head scarf or hijab, for religious reasons, is permitted.

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

Hair/Hair Ornaments: Extreme and exaggerated hair colouring or style and cuts are not acceptable. The colour of hair should be within the natural range. Also, for example, grade 2 and above is acceptable and tramlines are not acceptable. If unsure please contact the College for clarification. Plain hairbands may be worn.

Make-up and Nails: The make-up worn should be discreet and appropriate for a school environment. Nail varnish should be clear.

The full uniform must be worn at all times when students are on the College site (grounds and buildings) and as directed by staff. Permission may be sought from staff to remove a blazer.

Students may remove blazers in exceptional circumstances, when taking part in a physical activity at break and lunchtimes outside or if the Headteacher deems that weather conditions mean that students should be given permission to remove blazers. This may happen in the last half term of the summer term.

Any breaches to the Uniform and Dress Code will result in sanctions when first noticed during daily routines or regular checks. This is in line with our Behaviour Policy and will ultimately be at the discretion of the Headteacher where a specific breach is not contained in the policy

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: a Healthy School and Students' Wellbeing

We are proud of the pastoral care that we provide to our students and we have been leading other education professionals on strategies to develop Emotional Resilience in young people, to ensure they are equipped for the challenges of life. We know that mental health issues can affect 1 in 10 people so it is important for young people to have skills to manage their health. We are proud to have contributed to the Lottery Grant Application for Cornwall and the Chair of the Cornwall Young People's Board is a student from TCC.

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 have been re-accredited 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 term 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. We are also asking students to not bring family size bags of snacks or biscuits.

- **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)

Colouring pencils, glue stick (optional, but useful)

- **Marking and feedback to students: Dedicated Reflection and Planning Time (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 students about how to make progress and improve work.

- **Homework: Show My Homework Website**

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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:**

The first Point of Contact (PoC) at the College is the tutor.

- 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
- House Leaders of Learning:

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

- **Use of Phone (digital device) and headphones 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. Students are allowed to bring in their mobile phone or other electronic device but we believe students should use these responsibly and the use of these digital devices should not distract them from learning. Students are ONLY allowed to use their phone in Designated Areas eg the canteen, and in lessons ONLY when the teacher has given permission. Students are not allowed to use phones or headphones also in the corridors at ANY time during the College day.

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

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/>

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**

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For all parents/carers of our new students who will be joining in September 2016 the uniform will be available to order from SWI online at <http://www.swischoolwear.co.uk/>. For anyone who does not have access to the internet then blank order forms are available from the College.

A gentle reminder for parents to ensure there is credit on their child's Cashless Catering Account (through ParentPay) for the start of term as the College does not provide an authorised overdraft facility.

Who is in on what day:

Monday 5th September 2016 – Sixth form induction

Tuesday 6th September 2016 – Year 7, 10 and 12 return

Wednesday 7th September 2015 – All year groups return

- **The College Development Plan and four priorities for Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

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 2016 – 17, these are likely to be

- **Continue to ensure there are high expectations of all learners in a planned cohesive curriculum between all Key Stages where all are prepared for the next stage of their education and life**
(This assumes that all staff build on the curriculum at KS2, that KS3 is the 'engine room' and that the newly introduced GCSE and GCEs build on students prior learning)
- **Challenge all to achieve more by promoting students' development as emotionally resilient independent learners**
(This assumes that all staff build on the health, well-being and emotional resilience strategies we have developed during the last few years in order to explore a whole College emotional health framework drawing on research surrounding teaching, learning and assessment)
- **Continue to focus on students' recognition of the importance of homework as an essential part of learning, it's completion by all students through the provision of high quality homework tasks**
(This assumes that approx. 60% of Year 7 students will not have experienced homework and parents/carers may need support and guidance)
- **Ensure the 'Ready to Progress' (LwL) approach to assessment produces confident informed and inspired learner**
(This assumes that all staff build on the high quality of marking including feedback that is expected here (e.g. DIRT) as well as ensure we all become familiar with and use the assessment approach (year or linear based of Life without NC Levels) to bring about rapid progress in students' learning)
- **Multi Academy Trust status**

We are proud of our College and its community and maintaining our vision and mission statement:
'Inspiring Optimistic Learners'

The College is always improving and looking for opportunities to continue improving for the benefit of students. As you may be aware the College took the opportunity to adopt a Co-operative Trust and become a Foundation School. Our two non-negotiables are: we put the needs of the children first and we close the achievement gaps.

The government remains committed to the agenda for all schools being part of a Multi Academy Trust. The Governors have been exploring different models and partnerships. They have voted for the College to explore working more closely with the primary schools that partner with TCC. We have benefitted and will continue to benefit through our close collaborative work with our local secondary schools partners. Currently I Chair the SECLP: a partnership of the five secondary schools in South East Cornwall. We are also continuing with our School Led improvements and partnerships.

- **Sixth Form at TCC**

We are pleased to say that in a 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.