



**TORPOINT
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

Inspiring Optimistic Learners

NEWSLETTER



Issue 44 16 December 2016

Academic Year 2016/17 Term Dates:

Tuesday 3rd January - Return to College
Friday 10th February-Inset Day
13th-17th February-Half Term

UPCOMING EVENTS

10th January-Post 16 Parents' Evening
17th January-Year 9 Options Evening
24th January-Year 9 Parents' Evening

Rich Cottell Visit

Rich Cottell, a successful singer and songwriter, paid a return visit to the College on 1st December. This time, Rich gave a presentation on discrimination, E-safety and British Values; his previous presentation two years ago was on cyber bullying and staying safe on-line.

Rich entertained students (and staff) by singing a number of songs and playing his guitar; he also invited students to join him on stage and participate in the singing! Rich is very professional and extremely effective at getting his message across. Being young himself (24), he knows how to relate to young people by using his musical talents and knowledge of the internet and gaming platforms.

Rich stayed for the morning and spoke with individuals in the hall during break time, signing his autograph and really enjoyed being around the students. The message he was relating to certainly hit a key note with everyone present.



Anti-bullying Week

It was national Anti-bullying Week 14th-18th November 2016 during which Mr Davey led assemblies for each house to raise awareness of the support available to all students here at TCC.

Our students have all contributed to what will become a highly visible display of solidarity against bullying by "Putting their hands up" and passing on acts of kindness. On Friday 18th November many of our students dressed in blue to show their support for Anti-bullying Week as part of our Children in Need activities.

The overriding message that came out of this week was that "Every week is Anti-bullying Week" at TCC and that no one should be a bystander where bullying is concerned.

If you have a concern please contact the College via our confidential email service: worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk
Links to our anti-bullying policy (including guidance for parents) can be found on the College website.



Year 11, 12 and 13 Art and Textiles Clothes Show Trip

Despite the very cold and early start on 2nd December the group of 40 TCC students arrived at the NEC Arena Birmingham raring to see some top fashion, models and dance in the Alcatel Fashion Show. This annual trip could well be our last day trip as The Clothes Show is moving to Liverpool next year!

The students on the trip behaved brilliantly and were very impressed by the variety, staging and production of the fashion and musical numbers they saw as they sat and watched the fashion show together. Some students even managed to track down some 'celebrities' to round off their day!

Students also took part in the pop up activities such as knitting and sewing. All managed to look around the huge variety of make-up, clothing and higher educational stands that were available. This was a great day with a fantastic bunch of students - well done girls!

Thanks to Mrs Clare and Miss Jump who came with us too!
Miss Bell



Ten Tors training – Sunday 4th December

Another successful walk was completed by students training for the Ten Tors Challenge, with some even wearing festive attire. It was very cold and windy but the visibility was better than expected, as they walked from Holming Beam, near Two Bridges, East to Postbridge. The next walk is in January and all participating students will need to have or be carrying all their personal kit, which hopefully is on their Christmas list! A huge thank you to all the volunteers who supported the students and made it a successful Christmas walk.





TCC Advent Calendar

Staff and students at TCC are combining their love of reading with their love of all things festive this month with a reading advent calendar in the library.

Every morning Mrs Hodgetts, the College librarian, sends a quotation from a most wonderful book to the tutor team so that they can read it to their tutees. Students have then been excitedly rushing to the library to tell her which book they think it comes from.

Only the correct answer will open the door and let them get their hands on a chocolate treat...

The number of entries per day has been really high and our super knowledgeable students have really enjoyed the activity.



Medical Support

Mrs Moyle and Mrs Matta are part of the pastoral team that help and support our students with any medical needs. If you have any concerns regarding your child's health please don't hesitate to contact them. They can also be contacted in the Medical Room on extension 202.

It is important that we are aware of anything that could affect Students in College to ensure their wellbeing. To safeguard our students, any medication required during College hours should be given to Mrs Moyle in the Medical Room along with a signed parental agreement, with clear instructions on frequency and dosage. These forms can be found on the College website under pastoral care or obtained from main reception. Medication should be in its original box stating dosage/ frequency and expiry dates, with the student's name on. Advisory texts will be sent to parents if a child is given analgesia after midday.

Help us keep your children, safe, healthy and happy. Thank you.

Sixth Form Success In UK Maths Competition

Seven of our top mathematicians in Years 12 and 13 took part in the UK Senior Maths Challenge in November.

The Maths Challenge is a one and a half hour paper that contains a variety of questions that involve puzzles, problems, logic as well as maths, which make them challenging and enjoyable to those taking part. It is a national competition with the best mathematicians from all over the UK taking part. The paper is designed to challenge the most able students and get them to think about the maths skills that they need to use.

The College had some fantastic results with

five of the students participating receiving awards. Sam Wainwright (Year 12), Max Greenham (Year 12) and Jon Paul Gill all achieved Bronze certificates. Tom Lancaster of Year 12 also achieved a Bronze certificate alongside Best in Year 12. Alex Watkins of Year 13 achieved a Silver certificate which puts him in the top 30% of mathematicians of his age in the country! He also received the Best in Year 13 and Best in School Certificate.



Gwitthi

The Gwitthi volunteers have been busy since May making doll's clothes for the Plymouth Women's Refuge.

On Wednesday 7th December Gwitthi student and parent volunteers, and friends of the Gwitthi, who presented the gifts to the Centre. Our guests then joined us for tea. (Cakes were made by ex-student Beckie Hall.)

The Gwitthi volunteers would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Please note the Gwitthi is open for business every Wednesday during term time from 3.30pm-4.30pm. Gwitthi is the Cornish word for Storehouse and it is the name that was given to the community recycling store that was opened at the College.



Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch



It was a privilege for the College to host senior citizens from the local community again this year for a Christmas Lunch followed by some festive entertainment. Our guests were hosted by a number of students, who also joined them for lunch once they had finished serving the meals. This was then followed by a musical medley of Christmas songs performed by the Torpettes, and a number of solos and duets, in the main hall which was thoroughly enjoyed by all of our guests. The students who hosted and supported the lunch were amazing and should be very proud of their efforts. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.



Funding Implications

You may be aware that Cornwall is one of the lowest funded authorities in England for education and the figures are the same for maintained schools and academies.

The government postponed the introduction of a national fairer funding formula in the summer which was due to have been introduced in 2017. We now know that we have to wait at least another year. In the meantime, the College has much less money than schools in other areas yet is tasked to and yet delivers year on year improved educational outcomes. – this is clearly unfair – and we are bracing ourselves for a most difficult budget-setting time for 2017-18.

In order to offset some of the financial challenge, we make sure we gain the best value for money. The way we budget has been highly praised by a number of external agencies including the Local Authority Finance Team. We have introduced Parent Pay and Cashless Catering for example and both have resulted in gaining better value for the College and hopefully an improved and more effective service for parents and students.

Taking steps to recover from the financial deficit situation ten years ago without negatively affecting the learning and progress of students bodes well for any future steps we may need to take.

Headteacher's Message

As we approach the end of term and the start of the festive season, I have been reflecting on the achievements of our learners at TCC. I have the privilege of seeing learning in action and can see the progress made by students who are preparing for their GCSEs, A levels and BTECs, and, in some cases, their university applications. It is gratifying when we have known them and seen their development over a number of years. Of course what students do in Years 7, 8 and 9 is of huge importance as KS3 is the 'engine room' for future achievement and the College both invests heavily in this area as well as celebrating achievements with students. KS4 students made this point very clearly when we held a Student Voice discussion group with them recently.

It is fitting also that TCC celebrates with previous GCSE, BTEC and A' level students to reflect on their achievements. Last week, for example, we held a celebration breakfast event for our 2015-2016 GCSE and BTEC students to both celebrate their achievements and praise them for achieving so well. Many are continuing with studies and the next stage of their journey in our Sixth Form but it was good to see faces who came back for the 'Full English' and to collect certificates.

We also celebrate the positive comments and praise given to TCC as a result of the many evaluations we have organised. Over the last half term - six weeks - as you know, the College is never complacent about improving its offer to young people; we are always looking to improve. As a result we have sought feedback from students, staff, external consultants, the LA School Effectiveness team, an Ofsted inspector and other stakeholders. The feedback is hugely positive about the College and the support it offers to young people both in their learning skills: academic, emotional and physical wellbeing. And of course we use their

comments on which to base future developments and improvements.

Although there will be notices in future newsletters, I wanted to draw your attention to TCC being awarded Beacon School status for the South West region for teaching of the Holocaust and related topics. This is part of a DfE sponsored research programme run by University College London (UCL). Students will benefit already from excellent teaching and learning in History but as the programme extends across other subjects, students here will benefit from the learning of this research programme.

There are two teachers leaving at the end of this term: Ms Neaves, after four and a half years and Ms Luing-Holmes after eight years. Both started their NQT years and the start of their careers as teachers in secondary schools with the College and both will be leaving to take up promotions in different schools. We will be incredibly sad to see them leave at Christmas as they have been instrumental (*no pun intended*) in helping the College develop to the fantastic stage it has achieved but we are incredibly proud of their achievements as they spread their wings in ventures new, knowing that they take with them the advice, skills and knowledge they gained from working with everyone at TCC: " *by standing on the shoulder of giants.*"

Every day it is a privilege to work alongside such a talented team of staff and students and it is good to be reminded of that when we are tired at the end of term!

Have a good family break over the festive season and please come back refreshed for what promises to be a busy term.

Andrea Hazeldine

Accelerated Reader Rewards

Well done to the following students for their fantastic achievements in AR so far this year.

Our first Millionaire

Kostek Szewczyk

Top Readers (Most Words Read)

Year 7 – Jason Ryder

Year 8 – Kostek Szewczyk

Year 9 – Amber Dibble

100% Club (Must have read at least 2 books)

Year 7

Millie Adams

Persephone Battley

Bryon-Lee Read

Molly Evans

Amy Bonsor

Katelyn-Daisy Gamble

Oliwia Lechowska

Year 8

Antony Knott

Olivia Newbury

Beren Carne-Brooks

Luke Cross

Ellie Hardie

Ben Lakeman

Cameron Stephens



Year 9

Deryn Matthews

Jennifer Middleton

Eben Purchall

Bethan Cowd

Hollie Rickards

Jasmine-Lei Sleeman

Logan Gillingham

Rohan Oldham

Taegan Perkins

Chloe Elliott

Tyler Jeffcoate



Slovenia Alps Trip

Further to previous correspondence requesting a register of interest for the College to run a trip to the Slovenian Alps in 2017/2018, unfortunately there has only been a low take up so this adventure will sadly not be possible. Thank you to those parents who responded.

Mrs Trotter

Royal British Legion Visit

Members of the Royal British Legion recently visited TCC to receive a cheque for the money raised on our recent 'Wear Red for Poppy Day' muffin.



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year From Everyone At
Torpoint Community College**