

22/07/2019



Dear Parents/Carers

The Academic Year 2019-2020

Inspiring Optimistic Learners

Thank you to all parents and carers for your fantastic support again this year. We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting you at Parents' Evenings and Academic Review Days in the Autumn and Summer terms, as they allowed us to review your child's progress and agree together the best ways to ensure they are successful.

We hope your child has an enjoyable and safe summer holiday and that they can return to College in September ready for another year of learning and success. We look forward to the upcoming results days for our Year 11 and 13 students as we are expecting a great set of results. We have a staggered return in the new year so please make a note of the following dates:

Thursday 5th September 2019 – Sixth form induction
Friday 6th September 2019 – Year 7, 10 and 12 return
Monday 9th September 2019 – All year groups return

Our students always report that they feel safe at the College and safeguarding is always a College 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 email address is overseen by our Designated Safeguarding Leads.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of some key information that will help you to get ready for the new term. The attachment contains information for you to read to prepare your son/daughter for the new Academic Year 2019-2020.

- TCC Uniform.
- TCC: A Healthy School and Student Wellbeing.
- Equipment needed for learning at TCC.
- Marking and feedback to students.
- Attendance.
- Homework: Show My Homework Website.
- Information and Communication at TCC – first point of contact.
- Use of Mobile Phones (digital device) headphones and E-Safety.
- New to TCC.
- The College Improvement Plan and Five Priorities.
- Sixth Form at TCC.

Do look out for the College newsletter which is regularly published on our website and via the College's Facebook page. This is a great way to keep up-to-date with all of the exciting work going on at the College and help us to celebrate the successes of our wonderful students.

Please email enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk if you require any further information.

Sincerest thanks for your continued support.

On behalf of the College Leadership Team

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TCC Uniform

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.

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. No visible logos. 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 during lessons. Students can 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 during 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 that cares about Student Wellbeing

We are proud of the pastoral care that we provide to our students and we have been working on strategies to develop Emotional Resilience in young people, endeavouring to ensure that they are equipped for the challenges of life. We know that mental health issues affect many people so it is important for young people to have skills to manage their health.

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 their full potential. We know that healthy students are better learners and we relish every opportunity to facilitate good health. 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 fizzy or energy drinks into College. These drinks do not contain sufficient nutrients to support a healthy mind and body 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, but also 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 teenage 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 cola 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 also ask that students do not bring family size bags of snacks or biscuits.

Equipment needed for learning at TCC

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

- Pens and pencils.
- Pencil sharpener and rubber.
- Ruler, protractor and compass.
- Scientific calculator Colouring pencils, glue stick (optional, but useful).

Marking and feedback to students

One of the ways in which we help each student to make great progress at Torpoint is through Marking and Feedback. 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.

Attendance

At Torpoint Community College we believe that the greater the attendance, the greater achievement. We aim for an environment which enables and encourages all members of the community. For our students to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at College, on time, every day. If your child is absent please contact the College as soon as possible on the first day of absence and on each subsequent day of absence. If it is a planned absence, please complete an Absence Request Form. Please note that the law does not grant parents/carers an automatic right to take their children out of school during term time. Parents/carers can commit an offence if they fail to ensure the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school which the child is registered, unless the absence has been authorised by the school. If your request for absence is refused and you still take your child out of College on holiday in term time then we will refer the matter to Cornwall County Council and they may decide to issue a Penalty Notice. Penalty Notices for absences of 5 days are £60 per parent per child. For more information please refer to the attendance policy.

Homework: Show My Homework Website

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 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 Homework Club is available to help students use the technology to access their homework.

Information and Communication at TCC

We endeavour to reply to all emails 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 are composed of their surname followed by their initial and then @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: Lindup.c@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Use of Mobile Phones (digital device) headphones and E Safety:

Students are allowed to bring their mobile phone or other electronic device to College, but we believe students should use these responsibly and that the use of these digital devices should not distract them from learning. Students are ONLY allowed to use their phone in designated areas e.g. the canteen. Mobile phones must not be seen or heard in lessons unless the teacher has given permission. Students are not allowed to use phones or headphones in the corridors at ANY time during the College day.

Parents are reminded that students who choose to bring mobile phones and other devices onto College property do so at their own risk and students must adhere to the College 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 maybe putting them at risk.

New to TCC

For all parents/carers of our new students who will be joining in September 2019, the uniform is 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.

The College Improvement Plan and Five Priorities

Each year as a College we identify key aspects of our work that we wish to focus upon in order to drive forward further improvements. Although there are other areas that are developed across the College throughout the year, these five are priorities for all staff, teachers and students, ensuring that we have a clear vision. In 2019 – 2020, these are likely to be:

1. **Torpoint Community College provides an outstanding quality of education** - Student behaviour, attitudes and personal development are outstanding as a result of outstanding leadership and management by all members of the College community.
2. **Health, Well-being and Resilience** – The College continues to create new and refine existing strategies so that individual students’ resilience is further developed - both academic resilience and health related resilience to raise the achievement, attainment, the health and wellbeing of all individuals and groups of students.
3. **Independence in Effective Learning** - Build and secure students’ optimism and curiosity for learning, their learning independence, literacy skills, numeracy skills, experience of and expertise by providing a broad and balanced curriculum. The curriculum is at the heart of the College vision and values. The intent is to provide a progressive curriculum that enables students and staff to build knowledge and understanding, resulting in a “deep sequenced learning experience” for all.
4. **Careers and Aspirations** - Provide clear subject links to careers to further facilitate student progress and achievement to be equipped for further education and employment.
5. **Pastoral and Curriculum Structure** - Continue to develop the “pastoral and curriculum structure” to ensure the College is sustainable in the future, whilst building around the 3 core values of the College; Respect, Prepare and Focus and the College motto “Inspiring Optimistic Learners”.

Sixth Form at TCC

We are very proud of our Sixth Form at TCC. Our small size means we know and care about each and every one of you, as well as guiding you to your future career, hopes and aspirations. We want to help you towards academic and life success and ensure you are prepared for life after the Sixth Form. To help you on this journey, Mr Golding and Mr Pease will be meeting all of Year 11 in September and October and would love to hear your views on what you want from the Sixth Form at TCC, so we can make it the place you want to be a part of. To help us, please begin to think of things you really want from our Sixth Form, and ideas you have for it, so we can work together to make it a vibrant and fantastic Sixth Form for all.