

JPL/rt

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Inspiring Optimistic Learners

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Important Information with regard to College closure due to the coronavirus from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

As you are aware Torpoint Community College has been instructed to close with effect from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 as part of the national stringent measures to combat the coronavirus.

Firstly, thank you for the very supportive approach that you have taken during these exceptionally challenging times. Our students have simply been amazing! This morning I met with the headteachers of Carbeile Junior School and Torpoint Nursey and Infant School. We shared ideas of how we are collectively supporting our students and families at the heart of our community in the short, medium and long term. Whilst we are formally closed from Monday 23 March, we will continue to support your child, both academically and pastorally. Information and updates will continue to be published via Facebook, Show My Homework and the College website.

**Special opening from Monday 23 March for the children of key workers and those entitled to specialist support. Students are to report in the Sixth Form Common Room at 0845hrs and will leave the College at 1520 hrs. They are required to wear school uniform and bring a packed lunch with them as the canteen will be closed.**

**Key workers**

At midnight, the government published a list of those parent / carers who are entitled to send their child to school. The link below provides specific details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

The most recent scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

It is important to underline that schools, colleges and other educational establishments remain safe places for children. But the fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools are, therefore, being asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - those who are vulnerable and children whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home.

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Please, therefore, follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.

If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has parents who are critical workers, then educational provision will be available for them. 'Many parents working in these critical sectors may be able to ensure their child is kept at home. Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.'

2. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the stringent social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions.

3. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults.

As you would expect the College has been planning for such a closure and there is an expectation on all members of our teaching and learning community that we keep the learning going. This will require various adaptations and the need for independent learning and time management. All College subject areas have collated resources that will support students with their learning. These resources can be found on the College website and students can access work via Show My Homework. The College also provided paper copies for some students with an array of instructions and have asked students to regularly check Show My Homework.

Teaching staff will be regularly checking their College emails and students can communicate with their teachers using email for advice, support, assessment and feedback. Please also be aware that there are a number of very useful internet sites including BBC Bitesize, SAM Learning and MY Maths that students can use. Show My Homework will be the tool that teaching staff will use to provide both instructions and resources for learning.

Contacting staff by email. (Example of email for a member of staff [surname.initial.of.first.name@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:surname.initial.of.first.name@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk)) All students received a copy of their timetable with a list of the names of their teachers this week so they can communicate questions with each of their subject areas.

I am aware that Year 11 and Year 13 students will have an array of questions with regard to the announcement that examinations are cancelled. The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, is expected to announce shortly that A-level and GCSE grades will be based on a variety of factors including teachers' assessments, coursework marks, predicted grades and mock exam results, after exams were cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak. Exam boards will then check the "consistency and fairness" of the proposed grades. Students who remain unhappy with their grade are expected to be able to appeal, with the Government set to implement a rigorous appeal process. Successful appeals could then result in the pupil sitting an exam at a later time, potentially during the Autumn. I am sure more information will follow over the coming days and weeks.

I appreciate these are challenging and worrying times for all concerned and we will do our utmost to support your children as best we can. Please check the College website and Facebook page for regular updates as this will be the major method for communication over the closure period.

Both myself and Mrs Lear are the College's Designated Safeguarding Leads. If a student or a parent/carer has any safeguarding concerns they can be communicated via email at [worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk). This email account will be checked regularly throughout the day.

During this period of closure you may contact the college by e-mailing:

[enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk). You can also e-mail me direct at [plumb.j@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:plumb.j@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk) should you have any further queries or concerns. All enquiries in respect of the learning provision should be e-mailed direct to the respective teacher in the first instance.

Thank you again for your continued support and I wish you all the very best throughout this very difficult and challenging time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Plumb', written in a cursive style.

Dr J Plumb  
Headteacher