

June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 6 Transition Information from Torpoint Community College

I hope this letter finds you happy, well and excited about starting at Torpoint Community College in September. We are delighted that you will be joining us next term and offer a warm welcome to you as we finalise our plans for you to join our Torpoint family. We hope the years you will spend here will be both happy, successful and memorable!

Transition Programme

The process of preparing for you starting at Torpoint began at the beginning of April, where I contacted all primary schools to gather information about our new students. This has been a very useful process and has provided me with lots of information about our new starters in addition to the information you sent in on the 'All About Me' forms. May I take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers who sent an email with their child's form or posted it to us, it is very much appreciated. There is still time to complete this activity with your child if you have not done so already, please be advised that it can be found as part of the Transition Newsletter 1 on the KS2 Transition webpage (<http://www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk/ks2-transition/>).

Sadly, we are not able to continue with our usual summer term transition programme in the way we ordinarily would. In the current climate, with school closures and an uncertainty surrounding when schools will fully reopen, our transition programme has had to be redesigned and we have been looking for creative ways to manage this process. Please don't worry about this - the transition process has been adjusted to ensure that you feel welcomed and prepared for the start of secondary school.

We will be reformatting many of our Year 7 transition events and making them digital, wherever possible, to include things like a videos, online presentations and digital documents. Everything related to Transition will be placed onto the KS2 Transition webpage of our College website (<http://www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk/ks2-transition/>).

The availability and frequency of College visits and Open Mornings/Afternoons are something we pride ourselves on at Torpoint Community College and prior to school closures, we ran sessions and tours on a weekly basis for new students. We understand that making the transition to 'big school' can be daunting to some students as they can't often visualise what the school looks like. We want all of our new students to settle in and feel comfortable and safe by seeing the College site remotely. I will therefore create a 'Virtual Tour' video, which will be published on the College website by Friday 19th June 2020, please monitor the website for this exciting update.

We recognise that visiting our College is important and if this is something you feel is a 'must' for your child before September, we ask that you express your interest to visit us by emailing transition@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk by Friday 26th June 2020. Please note that the visit will consist of a one-hour tour with a member of staff, we ask that **one** parent accompany and **stay** with their child and the visits will be part of a group of up to 10 students and 10 parents. We will allocate you a date between

14th-17th July for your visit and a time slot. You will also be responsible for liaising with your child's primary school to let them know your child will be missing some of the school day and you will need to organise the transport to and from the College.

Towards the end of June, we would have held a 'Transition Evening' for Parents and Carers to attend so that they could meet the Heads of House and members of the College Leadership team. This evening usually provides an opportunity for Parents/Carers to gather information about the College, learn about the start of the academic year for their child and ask any questions they may have.

In order to provide parents/carers with an opportunity for questions to be answered and to ensure that you do not miss out due to the current climate, we would like to invite you to email questions or queries to the transition@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk email address where we will aim to answer all queries by email in a timely manner. We ask that you are patient whilst awaiting your response so that we can gather the correct information for you and your child.

In addition to the above, I will also be putting together a 'Virtual Transition Evening' where I will deliver our usual presentation and information remotely by video. This will be placed on the College website by Friday 19th June 2020.

By the second week in July, all students will receive a third and final letter with information about tutor group and house allocation for the new academic year. Please be advised that the tutor groups have been allocated based on the responses from the 'All About Me' document and by using information from your primary teachers.

Please rest assured that we do have a contingency plan and this is to run a transition day before all our other children return in September. We will make sure we stay in touch with you remotely to ensure you will have had plenty of time and information to get prepared for the new start and we are confident you will not miss out on anything. The most important thing for us is that you have all the information you require to make the transition and that you are well prepared for the move.

With this, I would like to take the opportunity to invite you to 'Like' our 'Torpoint Community College' Facebook page and familiarise yourself with the Torpoint Community College website. We will be posting updates and important information on both of these platforms, so please check them regularly for updates.

Open Evening

We would have held our annual Open Evening on Tuesday 9th June 2020 to share and celebrate all of the fantastic things we do at Torpoint Community College. This is something that we have adapted and I am pleased to share with you that our 'Open Evening' has been formatted into a video. You can watch the video on our College website or Facebook and you may wish to share this with your child as a starting point for meeting some of the College Leadership Team and Curriculum Leaders. In addition to learning a little about the Year 7 curriculum content at Torpoint.

Uniform

Unfortunately, this year, our usual 'Blazer sizing' sessions will not take place. With the last letter and newsletter, you will have received some information about uniform and a uniform order form (if you did not receive this or no longer have a copy, this information can also be found on the KS2 Transition webpage). Further uniform information can be found on our providers website (<https://www.swischoolwear.co.uk>).

We would like to extend a 'period of grace' to our new students to enable you more time to order key pieces of uniform such as blazers as we understand that this is a difficult time. We ask that you prepare your child in the best possible way you can and should be a minimum of black skirt or trousers and a white shirt (that buttons all the way to the top, this will allow for the tie to be able to clip on) ready for the start of their school year.

Further information about our uniform policy (including information on footwear) can be found here- <http://www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk/uniform-dress-code/>.

Please be advised that we do not have the ability to receive orders at the College and all uniform orders must be delivered to your home address. We also do not have a large stock of blazers that can be 'loaned out'.

Learning for the new school year

We understand that the last few months have been extremely challenging and in particular for our students not attending school for a period of time. To help our students make their academic transition, we will be setting a range of **optional** curriculum projects or tasks that students can complete during the Summer Term. The aim is to provide students with something fun and help them to gain an insight into the Year 7 curriculum but are completely **optional**. Any work that is completed will be gratefully received by class teachers, Curriculum Leaders and Heads of House and work will be recognised and rewarded. These tasks will be published on the College website in the KS2 Transition section by Monday 22nd June 2020.

We will also contact our primary colleagues to gather teacher assessment data and we will combine this with internal assessments that we hope to run in the Autumn, to help give us a sense of ability in different subjects.

I am sure there will be some anxiety around missed learning, but it is important not to dwell on this. The most important consideration at the moment is the happiness, wellbeing and safety of all our children. We will make sure that over time, all students receive the support they need, not only to adjust to a new school, but to readjust to a new routine. Please be assured we will not allow the current situation to hinder your transition and we will do everything in our power to make your experience rewarding, enjoyable and purposeful. Our new Year 7 cohort are uppermost in our minds at the moment, and we are committed to ensuring every student has the most positive start to their time at Torpoint Community College as possible. With this, all students will be provided with Knowledge Organiser packs and a College dictionary upon their start with us which will help them to progress with their learning.

Important Documents

With this letter, we are also sending the second edition of the Year 6 Newsletter and **all** remaining documents required for your child to start with us at Torpoint. In this pack, we include some very important documents/forms which will need to be returned to us, for example, the Admissions Form and Biometric consent.

Please can we ask that all documents are completed as instructed and are returned to **Mrs P Stephens, Torpoint Community College, Trevol Rd, Torpoint PL11 2NH. And by no later than Monday 6th July 2020**.

We are looking forward to meeting you all in person, hopefully very soon, and until that is possible, stay safe and well.

Yours faithfully,

Miss C Lindup
KS2 Transition Lead
House Leader of Learning Tregonhawke