



**TORPOINT**  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

“INSPIRING  
OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS”

# NEWSLETTER

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020



## UPCOMING EVENTS

9<sup>th</sup> October- Hello Yellow  
mufti day.

10<sup>th</sup> October- World Mental  
Health Day

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

HALF TERM: OCT- 26<sup>TH</sup>-30<sup>TH</sup>

Our priority remains the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, staff and the local community. With this in mind can I please remind you that, in line with the current government guidelines, not to send your child to the College should they or a household member develop COVID-19 symptoms, however mild, and to self-isolate for 14 days. A test should be arranged as soon as possible and the College notified of the outcome, whether it's positive or negative, following which your child may return to school if the test result is negative and they are fit and healthy to do so. Throughout the period of self-isolation, work will be set by the College for your child.

I am also pleased to see how students have embraced the requirement to wear a face mask or covering in designated areas of the College. This was a decision we made back in July and it was encouraging to see the government's change in stance shortly before schools reopened. I believe this is an important measure to retain the benefits from other control measures put in place and the integrity of the year group 'bubbles', and for the health and safety of all our staff and students. Unfortunately, there has been a small number of cases where students have worn inappropriate face masks or coverings in school that could be offensive to others. I would be grateful if you could ensure your child does not bring such masks or coverings to the College.

I have been very impressed by the standard of our students' uniform this week. They have looked very smart and thank you for your support in ensuring your child has started back at the College in full school uniform. Please click link [here](#) to view a document on the College's website that helps to explain why we value our students following our Uniform Policy, in addition to following other rules and protocols.

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the College's three main objectives for 2020/21 which will provide the focus for my staff this year. They are:

- Curriculum Implementation - all curriculum areas implement effectively sequenced curriculums that facilitate deep learning and respond to the unique challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is achieved by ensuring consistently high-quality teaching
- Health and Wellbeing - we create an environment that is supportive and responsive to the needs of children and adults
- Internal CPD - we implement a research-informed professional development programme for staff that recognises the extremely complex set of practices that bring about great teaching.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact the College.

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### HEADTEACHER'S LETTER 11<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parent/Carer

As we have come to the end of our first week back at school, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all parents, carers and students for the very positive way everyone has embraced the 'new normal'. I have been hugely impressed by the way students have adapted to the systems and procedures introduced to minimise the risk of the coronavirus being transmitted, their requirement to remain in designated 'bubbles' and the respect they have shown one and other and staff in adhering to the new rules. I would also like to offer a particularly warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and their families, and to our new intake of Year 12 students in the Sixth Form.

We remain in a period of great uncertainty, and it continues to be a particularly dynamic situation in which we are all having to adapt to a rapidly changing environment and new government rules and guidelines. A case in point is the 'Hands. Face. Space' campaign launched by the government on Wednesday, details of which can be found [here](#). We of course know that not all things we have put in place in the College will work as planned from the outset, but I am very happy with the way things have gone over the last week. We will continue to monitor and review all aspects of what constitutes the 'new normal'. The control measures that have been put in place will continue to evolve and develop as we learn more and I believe we will find the right balance for all

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As I'm sure you will have seen in the news, there has been a significant increase in the coronavirus transmission rates across the country with the government announcing a new limit of six people to apply to social gatherings from Monday. There have also been numerous reports of how coronavirus has impacted on schools since fully reopening this September with at least two schools locally reporting significant numbers of students having to self-isolate. I would like to reassure you the College has a contingency plan in place to provide continuity of learning remotely should this occur at Torpoint, and it is developing a plan should there be a requirement to move to a rota system whereby year groups are taught in College for one or two weeks and then undertake remote learning for the same period of time at home. The decision to make any such changes will be undertaken in consultation with Public Health England and the Local Authority and will only be made where it is essential.

Thank you to all parents and carers who have activated their SIMS Parent App accounts. I believe most parents now subscribe to this service which it is hoped will improve the College's communication and allow us to provide a more targeted service for matters of an operational nature. This should be particularly beneficial in the current pandemic where we may need to contact large numbers of parents urgently. The College's Facebook page will now be predominantly used to promote the College to the wider community and to sign post parents and carers that information has been sent out on the SIMS Parent App. If you experience any problems in activating your account, or require further information on this system, please do not hesitate to contact the College.

I am conscious that parents of our Year 11 and 13 students will be concerned about the uncertainty over exams in Summer 2021, what they will comprise and when they will be sat. Please rest assured we will keep students and parents fully updated on the latest guidance and that we will do our very best for these students to achieve the best outcomes possible. An important part of our planning is for the College to have a robust assessment and moderation process throughout this year should the data be required for centre assessed grades in 2021. There have been concerns raised in respect of assessment tasks completed in some subject areas this week. These assessments were only completed so that teachers could determine the students' current knowledge levels, following a prolonged period of College closure, and to facilitate the planning of future lessons in order that they best meet the needs of the individuals.

Apologies for such a lengthy letter at the start of term, but with so much going on I felt it was important to share this information with you. As the term progresses, I will keep you regularly updated. Thank you again for all your support with the 'new normal' and for having the confidence to send your child to the College in the current climate and with so many uncertainties. Please take care.

Yours sincerely

**Dr Jeremy Plumb**

**Headteacher**



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER #2 17<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of our second week back, during which we have had all year groups in the College, I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children continue to embrace the 'new normal' as new routines have been embedded and the idea of year group zones and bubbles are better understood. The control measures that been put in place to reduce the number of contacts between year different year groups, and to minimise the risk of COVID transmission, are working well and are regularly reviewed and updated as we learn more about how such measures work in reality.

It is clearly evident schools are not immune from the transmission of COVID-19 and both the local and national picture is showing an increase in the transmission rate and the number of children being sent home from schools to self-isolate. To date (and without wishing to tempt fate!) the College has not had any confirmed COVID cases amongst our staff or students; however, we are experiencing growing pressure in trying to sustain the current model we are working to as staff absences are having a direct impact on the operational aspects of College business. The number of student COVID related absences is also increasing daily as either they, or household members, are reported to be showing symptoms. As shared with you previously, there are plans in place to provide remote learning for these students.

Taking into account the above concerns, you need to be aware that we have contingency plans in place to reduce the number of year groups that attend the College at any given time should a situation arise where we do not believe it is safe for our staff and students to attend school. We will of course try and give parents as much notice as possible should there be a change to the current arrangements. However, a decision to introduce such plans may have to be made at very short notice should there be a suspected or confirmed coronavirus case or if the level of staff absence can't be effectively covered. We will be directed by Public Health England in the event there is a confirmed COVID-19 case. Any changes will be communicated with parents via SIMS Parent App, our Facebook page and website. Parents will also be contacted by telephone if it is necessary.

I fully understand the worry and concern parents and students will be experiencing at this time as we continue on this journey of great uncertainty. However, we are here to support you and to provide the best educational provision possible within the obvious constraints that we are having to work to. My staff are working tirelessly as they too adapt to the 'new normal' and I am grateful for their continued efforts in supporting all that we have put in place.

Thank you for the array of supportive feedback we have received from the College community – it is appreciated.

yours sincerely

Dr Jeremy Plumb



## TORPOINT STUDENTS SUCCESS IN UK MATHS COMPETITION!

Twenty three of our top mathematicians in Years 9,10 and 11 volunteered to take part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge last year. The maths challenge is a one 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 would like to say a massive well done to all the students who participated in this quite challenging event and we are pleased to announce there were some great results at Torpoint Community College with Ten of the students participating receiving awards.

Kieran Feeley currently in year 11 achieved a Gold award, Best in Year and Best in School.

Kate Teppin currently in Year 12 achieved a Silver award and Best in Year.

Louie Warren in Year 10 also achieved a Silver award and Best in Year.

Silver awards were also achieved by Millie Adams (Year 11) and Zak Gillingham (Year 10).

Bronze awards were achieved by Ben Grieve and Quinn O'Neill (Year 10) and Joe Fiore Smith, Kara Atterbury and Luke Cross (Year 12).



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### Torpoint Community College GCSE Results 2020

On 20<sup>th</sup> August, Torpoint Community College students celebrated their success on GCSE results day. Staff and Governors are extremely proud of each and every one of the Year 11 students.

The increased challenge that recent months have brought has not diminished the work of Year 11 students. It is important to remember that students have been with us for five years and GCSE results day sees the culmination of all the hard work and steely determination that has been achieved.

Students have received grades which are a testament to their hard work and commitment throughout their studies and which really promote our motto “Inspiring Optimistic Learners”. We are confident that our students have completed Year 11 with the grades they fully deserve and which put them in a strong position to embark upon the next part of their learning journey.

Dr Jeremy Plumb, Headteacher, said ‘I am delighted for the students. Their hard work over many years, great teaching and the overwhelming support from parents have resulted in the College continuing to go from strength to strength. The challenges that everyone has faced over recent months does not take away from the excellent achievements and is a testament to the strength and resilience of everyone’. There is much to celebrate in 2020.



### PARENTS AND CARERS NOTICE

If you have an enquiry or need to see a member of staff in person, please book an appointment in advance.

Do not enter the reception area unless you have booked an appointment.

Otherwise please use our enquiries email

**[enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk)**

Thank you



### Torpoint Community College A Level Results 2020

Staff at Torpoint Community College would like to say a huge well done to all our students who picked up their A Level and CAMTEC results on Thursday 13th August 2020.

For this cohort of students, this year's experience was unique with examinations cancelled and replaced with Centre Assessed Grades as a result of the pandemic. We are pleased to be celebrating some superb achievements with a higher than normal number of students applying for University. In total 75% of this year group applied for University this year with the majority achieving their place of first choice.

Dr Jeremy Plumb, Headteacher said “I am pleased to see that many students achievements have been recognised in the final awarded grades, and there are some outstanding results. At the time of writing this press release, it has just been announced by the Department of Education that teacher assessments in England would be used for the examination results and the College continues to analyse the examination results in a very turbulent time”.

Head of Sixth Form, Mr John Golding said, “At the end of a very challenging year, I am incredibly proud to be part of such an amazing Sixth Form with such wonderful students, parents and staff. We are one of the smallest school Sixth Forms in Cornwall and yet our students are now ready and willing to take their places on the world stage. They are confident to stand heads and shoulders with the best and have the necessary skills and expertise to flourish in their chosen careers. Best of luck to the next generation of doctors, lawyers, scientists, computer programmers, physiotherapists, teachers, nurses and so much more. The College would like to thank each and every student for working so hard over the last two years and also thank the parents and carers of our students who have given them such unwavering support. The College Leadership Team would also like to thank each member of staff for going the extra mile to support our students.”



### Assessment and Reporting 2020-21

Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the restrictions on holding parents' evenings, one of the areas we are looking to review is regular reporting and feedback as we know it is key to students achieving their very best at TCC.

In light of this we wanted to share this information with you.

Our Y12 and 13 A Level reports will stay the same and will have their half termly feedback as we have done for the last year. This consists of a target grade, attitude and engagement grade, progress to target and brief comment on their current progress.

They have 6 of these per year (apart from Y13 who have 5). There will not be any face to face parents' evenings.

#### How we will report in Y7,8 and 9:

- No face to face Parental Consultation Evenings
- 2 x short data-based reports – an overview of current progress.
- 1x Full Report containing comments from all subject areas.
- A focussed week where concerns can be share from subject teachers via a phone call or an e-postcard sent via SIMS Parent App to celebrate student effort.

#### How we will report in Y10 and 11:

- Every half term Y10 and 11 will receive a short report containing target range, progress to target, engagement, assessment data and a short comment about how they are progressing in each subject.
- These reports will be sent home electronically.
- No face to face parents' evenings.

We hope that in adopting this new reporting cycle that you will be kept regularly informed of your child's progress and any concerns can be highlighted quickly.

If you have any further questions about this please contact me on [bell.l@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:bell.l@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk)



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# EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

**#HelloYellow**

will be returning on Friday 9th October! Keep a look out around school & here in the next newsletter for more information.



There are 5 researched & developed ways recognised to help us with our mental health & wellbeing. Watch this space to see how, within our school community we discover how we use them everyday.

Please feel free to get in touch via  
[worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk)

*Best wishes,  
Miss Pine*