TORPOINT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"INSPIRING OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS"

NEWSLETTER

Monday 11th January 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

YEAR 9 VIRTUAL OPTIONS EVENING- TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/2021

SPRING TERM - 4TH JANUARY- 1ST APRIL

HALF TERM BREAK- 15TH- 19TH FEBRUARY

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Notwithstanding a very difficult start to 2021, I would like to wish all students and their families a very happy new year.

Welcome to the start of the Spring Term as we are now well into our third lockdown within the last 12 months, and another closure for secondary schools. As you will be aware, the current guidance given by the government is for schools to be closed until at least the February half term from which time the arrangements will be reviewed. We have learnt a great deal throughout this pandemic and I am confident the College's remote learning provision in place will serve our students extremely well until such time we can return to face to face teaching and learning in the classroom.

We are providing a programme of asynchronous remote education combined with daily Live time for all students. This means that teachers are sharing recorded lessons with students to watch and engage with. Our aim is to replicate the structure of an in-College lesson as far as possible with the teacher delivering clear explanations of the content and then directing students to pause the video to complete tasks. The Department for Education has now stipulated that all students should complete 5 hours of remote learning every day so we will ensure that we set lessons that meet that criteria.

The teachers will clearly tell students what they need to submit, when they should submit it, and how they should submit it. We expect all students to submit work at least once per week. Students might be asked to submit written work or complete a quiz which will allow the teacher to draw inferences about what the student has completed and how much they have understood.

BANNER ARTWORK CREDIT: SAOWALAK JANSONGKROH

Trevol Road
Torpoint
Cornwall
PL11 2NH
Tel: (01752) 812511

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The video lessons will be supported by our programme of Ask the Expert live time on Microsoft Teams. Teachers will schedule times when students can log in to Teams and ask their teachers questions about the work they have been asked to do. This will be particularly useful if students have struggled to understand an explanation or complete a task as the teacher will be able to go through it with them. Students should consult their calendar on Teams to check which live sessions they have been invited to join. Attendance of these sessions is not compulsory and students only need to join the meetings if they would like additional support.

Last week it was announced that GCSE and A level examination have been cancelled. We await further advice and guidance in respect of this announcement. I fully understand the disappointment and concern children will be feeling regarding this change, but it is important for all Year 11 and 13 students to keep focused and do the best they can with their remote learning. Once further information has been published on this I will ensure you are updated.

A Support School (previously titled Skeleton School) has been set up for vulnerable children and those of critical workers. This will be managed in year group bubbles by teaching staff and TAs, with students based in a dedicated classroom with ICT facilities. Students will be expected to complete their learning as if undertaking remote learning from home. If you have arranged for your child to attend the Support School, but they are going to be absent, please notify the College's main reception as soon as possible.

I would encourage for all children to remain at home and complete remote learning unless it is absolutely essential that they attend the Support School. This will help reduce the number of contacts between students and students and students and staff, which in turn will help reduce the risk of the virus being transmitted in households. The current situation is clearly very serious and where it is possible to reduce or remove the risk we should do so.

The government has asked that the coronavirus (COVID-19) testing programme continue to enable the weekly testing of staff and daily close contact testing for staff and students in secondary schools. This programme also allows for the College to test students on their return. We are working hard to set up the testing facility and training the workforce required to run it. We hope to have this in place imminently. Testing will be voluntary, and parental consent will be obtained before any tests are administered. A separate letter, with more detailed information, will be sent to you regarding the testing arrangements.

I understand the latest national lockdown will have an impact on everyone and the closing of schools adds further pressure to both you as a family, and your child who is missing out on more face to face teaching. We will do our utmost to support your child throughout this difficult period and continue to keep you updated as the situation develops.

Dr Jeremy Plumb
Headteacher

Trevol Road
Torpoint
Cornwall
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EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Start Now.

www.startnowcornwall.org.uk

hskyouth

HEADSTART KERNOW

Well done to the Student Council, who before the Christmas holiday successfully applied for £1600 funding from HeadStart Kernow to be invested in future Mental Health & Wellbeing projects at TCC.

5 'C's TO STAY MENTALLY & EMOTIONALLY WELL (from BBC Radio 1's Dr Radha Modgil)

1 – CONTROL
What can you control?
Following expert advice. Self isolation. Handwashing.
What can you not control?
Write a list, recognise it, and try to let it go.

2 – CARE
Take care of yourself.
Keep to a routine, wash, get dressed, get good sleep and keep active.

3 – CONTINUITY
The world is changing rapidly.
Watch the same programmes, listen to the same music and follow your usual school timetable to complete school work.

4 – CREATIVITY
Continue your hobbies; painting, singing, dancing.
Whatever it is, it helps keep your mind off worries and anxieties.

5- COMPASSION
Be kind to yourself and to others.
Ask for help and offer help to others.

Please feel free to get in touch via
worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk
or contact me at pine.r@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Best wishes, Miss Pine

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Cornwall
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HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

THANK YOU

We would like to say a huge thank you to all who donated items to the food bank on 11th December Mufti Day.

2020 FOOD BANK COLLECTION

A massive 351.10kg of food was collected. We are certain this is making a massive difference to families in our local community. Well done!

Liskeard & Looe foodbank

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Liskeard & Looe Foodbank wishes to thank

Torpoint Community College

For your very generous donation of 351.10 kg of food.

David Berry - Project Manager — Date 18th December 2020

On behalf of Liskeard & Looe Foodbank. — Registered Charity in England & Wales: 1183375

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YEAR 9

VIRTUAL OPTIONS EVENING

TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY 2021

find it on the College Facebook page.

Dear Year 9 students and parents/carers,

This year's Option Evening for Year 9 students will be a virtual on-line presentation. It will be available from Tuesday 12th January on our College Facebook Page and details can also be found on the TCC website. This presentation, alongside the options booklet, will be useful in giving a further insight into the range of subjects available for GCSE at Torpoint Community College and what they involve. Listen to the subject leads in their specialist areas explain the content and structure of the courses available.

Please look out for the final option choice form which will be sent via SIMS Parent App and will include a link to a google form for electronic submission if easier. This will also be sent out on Tuesday 12th January and final option choices must be sent back to the College by Friday 29th January 2021.

If you have any questions regarding the options process please do not hesitate to contact me on my school email bell.L@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Many thanks,

Miss Bell