

September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to start by welcoming back our fantastic Year 11 students. I am really looking forward to seeing what our wonderful group of students can achieve this year. I am sure we will see many phenomenal accomplishments.

Year 11 is an important stage in your child's education, and they have now embarked on the final months of their GCSE courses. At present we are clear that the Government intends for examinations to go ahead in 2022; however, there is currently a consultation process happening and Ofqual are yet to publish specific guidance about examinations or the grading process for 2022. Plans for summer 2022 GCSE examinations are expected to be confirmed in the autumn term and we will share this with students and parents/carers as soon as we have this information available.

This is an important year and I wanted to take the opportunity to make you aware of some key events. It is a busy but short year in which we need to make the most of all the opportunities to ensure our students have the best year possible success.

Tutor programme 2021-2022

We have a very experienced Year 11 tutor team who are working hard to support your child's emotional health and wellbeing and offering practical support with revision on a weekly basis.

Students have a 30-minute registration period at the start of each day. In a typical week, students will have a mixture of tutor led activities to support a specific aspect of their development alongside opportunities to work on their revision and retrieval skills.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Reflection and Planning Numeracy Challenge | Reading | Respect Prepare Focus (RPF) | Reading | Independent Study |

The KS4 tutor programme has been developed to help support students learning across the curriculum and to foster positive attitudes towards learning.

During the weekly RPF session, tutors will be leading sessions aimed at developing student's understanding of how to become more effective learners, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to become more effective at revision as well as supporting their emotional health and wellbeing. Students will then be given the opportunity to apply these skills in their independent study session.

Two tutor times per week will be dedicated to shared reading. The tutor will read aloud to the students, and they will have a copy of the novel so that they can follow. This is an exciting new addition to the KS4 tutor programme which we believe to be hugely beneficial. There is much research to show that there is a strong correlation between reading and examination success in all subjects. Reading really is the master skill of education and there

are many benefits for young people if they listen to adults read aloud. Research shows that it not only improves their reading ability, but also their wider knowledge of the world. Of course, we also hope that the students find it a purposeful and enjoyable way to start the day.

Mock Examinations: Monday 22nd November – Friday 3rd December 2021

All students will sit Mock Examinations in November with a second set provisionally scheduled for early March. We believe the mock examinations are important as they can help students to start revising early, to practice effective revision strategies, to improve their knowledge, to familiarise themselves with the examination process, allow them to practice examination techniques and are an important indicator of progress. Tutors and teaching staff will be working with students to help prepare them for the Mock Examinations, but it is also important that students are carrying out independent revision at home.

Students will be issued with a personalised timetable for their mock examinations closer to the date.

Tutor Support Evenings: Wednesday 3rd November 2021/Wednesday 6th April 2022

Parents/carers together with their child will have the opportunity to attend an online meeting with the tutor. By empowering our students to reflect upon their current progress and set purposeful targets, we aim to help them achieve greater academic success. It is also a good opportunity to raise any concerns or queries you may have.

Mock Results Evening: Wednesday 15th December 2021

Parents/carers will be invited into College with their child to receive the 'mock' results. Presentations aimed at providing parents/carers with advice on how to support their child in the run up to the summer examinations will also be given by key staff members.

Year 11 Academic Progress Feedback: December/April/May

Throughout the year we will be providing you with 3 interim reports for your child. These reports will have a grade for: subject progress, homework completion and attitude to learning as well as an overview comment from the subject teacher. The report will also contain information about the student's attendance, punctuality and behaviour.

Year 11 Parents Evening: Thursday 3rd February 2022

This is an important evening and provides you with an opportunity to discuss progress with subject teachers. As students will have already received their mock examination results, this will provide a good opportunity to discuss how students can make a difference to their work and study habits which will impact positively upon final GCSE results.

Study Café:

- Every Tuesday 3.20pm-4.20pm, Library
- Every Wednesday 3.20pm-5.30pm, Room 17
- Every Thursday 3.20pm-4.20pm, Library

Students in Years 10 and 11 are welcome to stay after College and use the allocated rooms to complete revision or homework. Students can stay for as little or as long as they need. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided.

Health and Wellbeing support:

As well as the focus on health and wellbeing during the morning tutor programme, we will be offering a range of additional support sessions throughout the year.

Miss Pine our Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator will be running drop-in sessions after College, every Thursday week 2. These drop-in sessions provide an opportunity for students to talk to staff about their mental health and wellbeing, to learn about how they can look after their own mental health and to seek additional support if needed.

Mrs Batty will also be running a series of Health and Wellbeing sessions after college on Wednesdays aimed again at providing students with support in building resilience, managing stress and increasing confidence and self-esteem. Times and dates of these sessions will be shared by your child's tutor.

Attendance and Punctuality:

Attending school is essential for students to make good progress and achieve their full academic potential. Every student at TCC, in line with government expectations, is expected to maintain an attendance of at least 95% and a good level of attendance would be at least 96% or higher. A widely known fact is that missed time from school can have a negative impact on student education and GCSE results.

Students attendance over one school year:

98% attendance = approximately 4 days absent from school

95% attendance = approximately 10 days absent from school

90% attendance = approximately 4 weeks absent from school

85% attendance = approximately 5 ½ weeks absent from school

80% attendance = approximately 7 ½ weeks absent from school

Subject Support Sessions:

As we get closer to the final examinations in the summer the number of subject support sessions which take place at lunch and after College will increase. Details of these sessions will be shared with students at tutor times and yourselves via Sims Parent App.

At Torpoint Community College we recognise the significant benefits that partnership working between school and home can have for our students; if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either your child's tutor or myself. However, if you have a specific curriculum question then please direct this to the relevant subject teacher.

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| 11 A (ABA) | Batty.a@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk |
| 11B (DBR) | Bray.d@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk |
| 11C (DJO) | Jones.d@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk Carr.a@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk |
| 11D (LOD) | O'driscoll.l@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk |
| 11E (FPE) | Pease.c@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk Hampton.f@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk |
| Head of year | Howard.j@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk |

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Howard
Head of Year 10/11