



**TORPOINT
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

"INSPIRING
OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS"

NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 15th December 2021

ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/2022

AUTUMN TERM: 6th September – 17th December



UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Half Term 1 – Tuesday 4th January -
Friday 18th February 2022 (staggered start)

Tuesday 11th January – Year 9 Virtual
Options Evening 2022



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE Dr Jeremy Plumb

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the end of 2021, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to parents, carers and staff for their support throughout this year.

Prior to March 2020, one couldn't have imagined what we have had to face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. From an education perspective, the idea of closing schools for months on end, home-schooling, keeping children in designated 'bubbles', the wearing of face coverings and maintaining social distancing, setting up lateral flow testing sites, and significant changes to the examination process to name just a few would have been incomprehensible. However, by working together and being flexible and adaptable to change, often at very short notice, we have worked our way through the various challenges this pandemic has presented us with and done our very best for the children at the College under the circumstances.

The ongoing pandemic continues to place significant staffing pressures on the College, and it is unfortunate that we have had to implement a Year Group Rota in this final week of term to ensure we have enough staff to keep children safe on the College's site. I am grateful for your support and understanding with this matter.

As previously notified, the College is preparing to test students once for COVID-19 on their return in January.



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.

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

Otherwise, you can use our enquiries email

enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Thank you





Trevol Road
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There will be a staggered return of year groups between Tuesday 4th and Friday 7th January to accommodate on-site testing, details of which are outlined below:

Date	Year Groups returning to College	Year Groups <u>NOT</u> in College (remote learning)	Notes for returning Year Group
Tuesday 4 th January	Years 7, 11, Years 12, 13/14	Years 8, 9, 10	To be based in tutor rooms
Wednesday 5 th January	Year 8	Years 9, 10	To assemble in the Sports Hall
Thursday 6 th January	Year 9	Year 10	To assemble in the Sports Hall
Friday 7 th January	Year 10		To assemble in the Sports Hall

On Tuesday 4th January students will remain in their tutor groups for the whole day and follow a programme of learning when not being tested. This programme includes sessions on online safety, safeguarding, anti-bullying, kindness, mental health and wellbeing and behaviour for learning. Please note there will be no catering on this day, with the exception of food provided for our free school meal students, so **please ensure your child brings a packed lunch, snacks and water with them on 4th January**. Mr Golding, Head of Sixth Form, will notify Post 16 students of what is planned for their time in College on this day. Thereafter, normal lessons will resume from Wednesday 5th January for year groups already tested. Year groups tested between 5th-7th January will initially be based in the Sports Hall, and once testing for the year group is complete they will return to normal lessons (hopefully by the start of Period 3). A remote learning provision for the days year groups are not in College will be in place, with details published on the Show my Homework platform. There will be no live remote lessons during this period.

This week information has been sent to you regarding a COVID update from the College's perspective. Additionally, details on the new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 introduced on 14th December were provided and information on COVID-19 vaccinations. There is clearly a great deal of concern and uncertainty in respect of the Omicron variant, but it appears clear that the transmissibility rates of this new strain are very high with cases doubling every 2 to 3 days and that it will become the dominant variant in the UK very shortly.

However, what is less clear is how virulent the Omicron variant is compared to Delta. I believe it is highly likely the government will introduce further restrictions and control measures in the coming days and over the forthcoming Christmas period. To this end, the College is working on its contingency plan in the event we are directed to change our return arrangements in January. A request for information from parents and carers who are critical workers will be sent out shortly so we can make plans for a Support School for those eligible should it be necessary.

On a more positive note, I would like to congratulate all of our students who have participated in recent sporting events including football, netball and cross country running. There have been some excellent results, great team spirit shown and most importantly the students really enjoyed it. Well done to all those involved and thank you to the PE Team for arranging and coordinating attendance at the various events.



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I would also like to thank everyone who supported our Christmas themed mufti day last Friday. To date this has helped raise over £570 for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Derriford Hospital.

Our Year 11 students have recently completed their mock exams for all subject areas they are studying. It is unfortunate we have had to change our plans for a Mock Results Evening to a lower key event during the school day, for students only. However, I hope your children find it useful and that it helps them to prepare for the formal exams planned for Summer 2022.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas break (for those that manage to have a break) and I look forward to welcoming back your children in January. Please keep a close eye on the College website, and SIMS Parent App, for any information that we may need to publish over the Christmas period in response to government announcements regarding the pandemic. Also, please encourage your children to continue completing twice weekly lateral flow tests and to complete a test the evening of, or morning before, the day they return to school.

Happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jeremy Plumb
Headteacher



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Ten Tors Training - Sunday 5th December

Getting into the festive spirit, there were Christmas hats worn along with much-needed winter clothing for the last Ten Tors training walk of 2021. We were fortunate to again have some sunshine throughout the day, but the high gusts of wind kept temperatures down and there was even the odd shower or two! The teams successfully completed the walk to and from Postbridge and returned at the end of the day to enjoy some well-deserved treats.

The first training walk of 2022 is on Sunday 9th January, with the planning meeting on Friday 7th between 3.30 – 5pm. Merry Christmas to all involved in the training.




**Merry
Christmas**





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Sports News - Under 16's County Cup 2nd Round vs Brannel School

Despite the horrific weather down in St Austell, the boys acquitted themselves well. Going 1-0 up early through a Myles goal, the boys played some good football into a strong wind. Despite missing a few opportunities to extend the lead, the boys kept plugging away but conceded a long range free kick right on the stroke of half time. A few changes at half time enabled TCC to gain control after the break and again looked the more likely to score as indeed they did through an own goal by a Brannel defender.

As the game wore on both teams went in search of another goal and sadly for us, it was an equaliser for Brannel as a well worked move made it 2-2. The Brannel goalkeeper made two further saves towards the end of the match as the teams could not be split. Therefore extra time came and went in a blur with Oliver producing a great goal line clearance to keep TCC in the game. Again the teams could not be split before the final whistle and so.....penalties!

The boys held their nerve and Malakai of Year 9 slotted away the winning kick!!

Torpoint are through to the quarter final of the County Cup.

All 14 players worked their socks off for the whole game, but man of the match was George Mills of Year 10 who was everywhere and didn't put a foot wrong in defence.

The boys now face Saltash in a local derby in the quarter final.

ARENA Sports Partnership Cross Country at Wadebridge

The students that participated in the ARENA Sports Partnership Cross Country event at Wadebridge were fantastic. The weather held off enough that the course wasn't too wet and muddy! This was the first of four races that will take place at different venues over the next four months. They achieved the following positions:

Year 7 Girls

Beau – 2nd
Poppy – 8th
Mia – 10th
Lily – 12th

Year 7 Boys

Ruben – 6th
Finlay – 14th
Luke – 22nd
Finley – 23rd

Year 8/9 Girls (note all students are Year 8 competing against girls a year older!)

Lola – 10th
Evie – 24th
Addy – 29th
Summer – 30th



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Year 8/9 Boys (note all students are Year 8 competing against boys a year older!)

Josh – 1st
Jack – 3rd
Oliver – 6th
Mikey – 15th
Charlie – 16th
Harry – 17th
Charlie – 30th
Leo – 32nd

Massive praise goes to both the students that were again a credit to our school, and Mrs Batty who has spent hours preparing the students in extra curricular clubs. As I said earlier, this is the first event of four locally and all races contribute to an overall team score. *Mr Evans – Head of PE*

Extra Curricular Clubs

The new term will see a new extra curricular club programme. This will be published on the College website and Facebook page. Due to the staggered return and testing procedures needed, there will be no clubs on the first week back. There will also be more football, netball, basketball and cross country events early in the New Year.

Girls Football News

The U16 Girls Football Team travelled to Saltash for the first round of the cup. Many of these girls attend the extracurricular football club but have never played together as a full 11 a-side.

The communication, work rate and support between them was brilliant. There were some great passages of play, awesome individual performances and an overall good team atmosphere.

The final 4-2 score line in favour of Saltash did not reflect how close the game was. They were a pleasure to take to this fixture and a special thanks to Mrs Porter for driving us.





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MUSIC News

TCC JUNIOR SINGING GROUP PERFORM AT TORPOINT CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

On Saturday 27th November Mrs Hamilton took the TCC Year 7 and 8 Singing Group to perform a few songs at the Torpoint Christmas Lights Switch on where the students sang really well with smiles all round despite the bitterly cold winds!



They performed three well known Christmas songs: Rockin around the Christmas Tree, Silent Night and Walking in the Air from the famous film animation 'The Snowman.' Some equally impressive performances were given by those in the Torpoint Performing Arts group as many had additional solos including Lilly-May and Summer in Year 8 plus Lily-Mae in Year 10.





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MUSIC News

BBC RADIO CORNWALL - TCC JUNIOR SINGING GROUP ON DAY 5 OF CORNISH CHRISTMAS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Following the success of the TCC Junior Singing Group's performance at the Torpoint Christmas Lights Switch On, we were featured by BBC Radio Cornwall on day 5 of their Cornish Christmas Music Festival hosted by Anoushka Williams which was broadcast at 07.55 and 12.50 on Sunday 5th December.

Please see click on the link below to the 'BBC Radio Cornwall' website where you can hear the presenter Anoushka Williams featuring the Singing Group (Year 7 and 8) performing 'Walking in the Air.' Anoushka certainly seemed to enjoy our version of the song and it is a great tribute to the wonderful efforts that the students in the junior singing group have made this term. We do hope you enjoy listening to it.

Please simply scroll the play button forward to approximately 1.55/1.56 into the programme to listen:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0b3kw9s>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0b4t2nh> This link is for Silent Night, which also featured on Radio Cornwall.

YEAR 7 AND 8 CHRISTMAS SONG WRITING COMPETITION

All of my students across Years 7 and 8 have been working really hard in the second half of this term to compose their own Christmas Songs in groups or pairs, which have included their own lyrics and music. They have all had to perform their own songs as part of a competition to find the top three songs in each year group.

I have been overwhelmed by the way that students have engaged in this project so enthusiastically, and it has not been easy for me to choose just three of the best songs from the two year groups as so many were of a good quality and fun to listen to. However, I finally chose the following songs listed below because they showed the best attention to detail in relation to both composition and performance. The students listed will all receive a 'thank you' gift from me in their final assembly at the end of this term. Well done to all of them.

Year 7 Top Three Christmas Song Competition Winners

1. 72A – Michaela, Scarlett and Beau – Song Title: 'Christmas Dinner.'
2. 72A – Amos, Finlay and Jake – Song Title: 'Christmas Time.'
3. 73A – Felix and Ollie – Song Title: 'Christmas Eve.' PLUS in joint 3rd position is 71A – Charley, Lilah and Bella – Song Title: 'Run Santa Run.'

Year 8 Top Three Christmas Song Competition Winners

1. 81A – Jack and Liam – Song Title: 'Do I Hear the Guns?.'
2. 81A – Summer and Lola – Song Title: 'Christmas Night.'
3. 82B – Autumn and Kacie – Song Title: 'What does Christmas Mean?' PLUS in joint 3rd position is Autumn and Florence – Song Title: 'Baubles Bouncing.'

Well done to all my Music students for all their hard work this term. Have a truly wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year!

With best wishes,

Miss Hamilton - Curriculum Leader of Learning for Music



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Careers News

Year 11 Royal Navy and Employability Day

On Monday 13th December, Year 11 students took part in a Royal Navy and Employability Day.

Students tackled team building, leadership and STEM Challenges with the Royal Navy Attract Team who were fantastic. The challenges required the students to communicate effectively with each other and the students rose to the occasion. The Spider's web challenge involved negotiating a large web to allow all members of the group to pass through the individual holes. Students were also tasked with STEM Challenges that involved building structures to meet certain criteria.

Sarah Crutchley, from the Department of Work and Pensions, led a workshop on how to showcase your skills and strengths during job interviews and students were tasked with writing an elevator pitch – a short 3 minute pitch outlining their skills, qualities and strengths.

National Citizen Service and Gary Sawyer, the Club Ambassador from Plymouth Argyle and former Club Captain, led a session about employability skills, what makes a good employee and the importance of volunteering.

In the afternoon all students listened to a presentation by the Royal Navy Careers Officer, Richard Tremain, about the role of the Royal Navy and the range of careers that are available.

Thank you to our Year 11 students for engaging with the day so positively and representing the College so well.

Mrs Bray, Careers Leader





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Christmas Mufti Day - 10th December 2021

We recently held our Christmas themed Mufti day in College where students wore a variety of Christmas jumpers and festive, winter outfits.

The mufti raised an amazing **£579.60!**

This money will be sent to the Derriford Hospital NICU.

Thankyou to all our of wonderful students and staff for taking part.





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Library News

It has been lovely to see so many students using the College Library recently.

As well as Year 7 and 8 having their regular Accelerated Reader and Library lessons, all students can now access the Library from 8.15am-8.40am Tuesday to Thursday. You can read a book, do an Accelerated Reader quiz, write a book review or do some homework. Just remember that you can only be in the library or outside at those times – no wandering around the College.

Out of school hours you can keep up to date with Library news on Mrs Hodgetts' virtual library page [Mrs Hodgetts' Virtual Library](#) please have a look and let me know what you'd like to see on there. Also it would be great to have some book reviews to post, and suggestions for books you'd like to see in the Library. There's also a Christmas quiz on the competition page – keep checking back for more coming soon!

Year 10 and 11 students can access the Library after College on a Tuesday and Thursday until 4.30pm for Study café. All students can access the Library until 4pm on a Wednesday and Friday.

Come and see me and talk to me about what you'd like in YOUR Library.

Mrs Hodgetts
hodgetts@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk



Torpoint Community College – Job Vacancies

Please note the College are advertising the current vacancies:

Science Technician – 20 hours a week
Cleaner – 15 hours a week
Examination Invigilators – casual hours

Further details, including how to apply, can be found [here](#)





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TORPOINT STUDENTS SUCCESS IN UK SENIOR MATHS COMPETITION!

Ten of our top mathematicians in Years 11, 12 and 13 took part in the UK Senior Maths Challenge last month.

The maths challenge is a one and a half 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. The paper is designed to challenge the most able students and get them to think about the maths skills that they need to use.

Ben, Year 11 achieved a Silver Certificate, Best in Year and Best in School. Zak, also Year 11 received a silver award. Bridgette, Year 11, Joe and Kostek, both Year 13 received Bronze awards.

Matthew and Chris in Year 13, Craig in Year 12 and Oliver and Zac in Year 11 also all participated in this challenging competition and narrowly missed out on awards.

Well done everyone!





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EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Christmas, New Year and the festive season can be a wonderful time of celebration and connection with people we love. For some of us, it can also be stressful and trigger difficult feelings. Here are a few things for you to do to look after your mental wellbeing at this time of year:



Stay active: Physical activity can really help with keeping your mood positive – whether you like walking, cycling, playing football...

Not feeling festive? That's okay!
There can be all sorts of reasons why some of us don't feel festive. It's okay to feel how you feel – you're not the only one!



Get enough sleep: Sleep is vital for our wellbeing. Try not to skimp on it – even on Christmas Eve!

Give yourself space: If it's all getting a bit hectic, take time out to be in nature, listen to your favourite music, read an uplifting book – or just be in the moment.



Eat regular meals: It can be tempting to overdo it but keeping your routine, with plenty of fruit, veg, and water will help keep stress at bay.

Stay supported: It's easy to feel lonely at Christmas when we're bombarded with images of happy families. Stay connected to your sources of support and if you're not sure where to turn, we've listed some useful organisations.

Check out the activities for children aged 5 – 16 offered over the holidays by Active Cornwall at: <http://www.activecornwall.org/children-young-people-families/t2m-holiday-programme>

"Prioritise and tackle things one at a time."



"Find time for yourself – it might be taking a long bath, or going on an errand, but five minutes to yourself can be really helpful."

*Best wishes,
Miss Pine*



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EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

There are many helplines and support available over the holiday period – you are not alone.

We know Christmas can be a difficult time for people with eating disorders. Perhaps think about the following:

It's almost impossible to get away from food at this time of year, and this along with encouragement by others to "indulge" can be stressful or upsetting. It may create additional pressure to eat, or cause increased worry about bingeing.

What might help?

- Planning Christmas dinner in advance can help. You can talk about your concerns and how to address them with your loved ones. Agreeing on what will be served, at what time, portion sizes and who will be there means you know what to expect, and don't have to make decisions on the spot.
- Some food could be kept away from the table – a laden-down table may increase anxiety. It might also be easier if meals are served away from the table.
- If everyone else is serving themselves, however, it may be easier to sit next to someone supportive so you can copy their portion.
- Distractions during the meal, like having music on or conversation that doesn't involve food, can help.
- The urge to binge, or to get rid of food eaten, is most likely to come in the hour or so after eating, so it's best to be with others during this time. Distractions like opening presents or a jigsaw puzzle, game, or favourite film can help you take your mind off food, and can be planned beforehand.
- Consider not sitting at the dining table for a long time after the meal has finished – you could continue the socialising away from the table.

After the fun of Christmas is over, many of us can be left facing a hefty bill in the New Year. It can be hard to avoid using credit to pay for the festive season but saving in the run-up will help soften the blow in January. If you are concerned try the following:

- Talk to family and friends.
- Set a budget
- Consider starting some new traditions
- Share your worries with others.

*Best wishes,
Miss Pine*



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EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

YOUNGMINDS

THANK YOU FOR HOLDING A **#HelloYellow** DAY AT YOUR SCHOOL

You helped show young people they're not alone with their mental health

We supported YoungMinds by raising

£283

Emma Thomas, CEO, YoungMinds

Date:

October 2021

Because a little yellow... goes a long way.

YoungMinds, registered Charity in England (1016968) and Scotland (SCO39700).

*Best wishes
Miss Pine*



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EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



#HelloYellow

YOUNGMINDS

Fourth Floor, India House, 45 Curlew Street, London SE1 3ND
020 7899 5858 • ym.enquiries@youngminds.org.uk

Dear parents, carers & students,

From all of us at Torpoint Community College, we just wanted to say a huge thank you for supporting YoungMinds #HelloYellow day held on 8th October 2021 for World Mental Health Day.

We all struggle with how we're feeling sometimes and it's normal to have ups and downs. This year might have felt a little more down than up. But it's the little things that have got us through it - the morning walks, singing in the shower, the perfect cuppa, that Netflix show that got us all buzzing, the bestie who makes you LOL and the teacher who has your back.

By supporting #HelloYellow this World Mental Health Day, you have done a little thing to make a BIG difference to young people's mental health.

We had an amazing day filled with joy and colour, raising an incredible £283 for YoungMinds and another £283 for projects here at TCC.

With 3 children in every classroom with a mental health problem, YoungMinds is leading the fight to see a future where all young people can get the mental health support they need, when they need it, no matter what.

Thank you so much for your support.

If you would like to learn more about YoungMinds please visit:
www.youngminds.org.uk

Kind regards,

Miss Pine

youngminds.org.uk



Because a little yellow... goes a long way.

Best wishes,
Miss Pine