



**TORPOINT  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE**

"INSPIRING  
OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS"

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23

SPRING TERM 3<sup>rd</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Earth Day Concert Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Face to Face  
Year 7 Parents' Evening

Monday April 17<sup>th</sup> Non Pupil Day -  
Staff Training (INSET Day)

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

Thank you



### Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Friday our English Team took over 40 students to London to watch a production of William Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in the Shakespeare's Globe. This was a fantastic opportunity to visit the capital, experience the amazing Shakespeare's Globe, enjoy the vibrancy of the city and of course bring Shakespeare to life. I would like to thank Miss Hodgkinson for arranging this trip, and all staff who supported her. I know she has already started work on another!

Our Ten Tors students had their first expedition on Dartmoor last weekend. With wet and windy conditions and poor visibility it really tested the students both physically and mentally, as well as their navigational skills. Well done to everyone who took part, and a huge thank you to Mrs Porter and her team of volunteers who support this activity outstandingly well.

It was a pleasure to see our Year 10 students' parents and carers at last week's revision presentation. Often students only start to engage in their revision just prior to their GCSE exams. However, this is often too late to both learn appropriate revision strategies that work for the individual as well as the content required to achieve the best possible exam results. With the support of parents and carers, and the ongoing work we undertake in the College, it is hoped this partnership will help achieve the desired outcomes.



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This week the local Police have delivered assemblies to Year 7, 8 and 9 with a focus on Hate Crime, explaining how the law recognises five types of hate crime on the basis of race, religion, disability, sexual orientation and transgender identity.

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we have our Earth Day Concert taking place at the College between 6-7pm. This is a showcase of music, readings and drama which celebrate Earth Day 2023: Invest in our Planet. This concert is being done in collaboration with Carbeile Junior School and I'm sure it will be a thoroughly enjoyable event.

On the sporting front I would like to congratulate our Year 7 and 9 netball teams who both had dominant wins against Saltash on 8<sup>th</sup> March. We also had 16 students represent the College at a schools swimming gala at the Plymouth Life Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> March. With varying levels of experience amongst the swimmers, they gave it everything and there was a silver and bronze medal for the KS3 and KS4 boys' teams respectively.

With only two weeks remaining before the Easter break, a reminder the College's Easter break is between 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April, with an INSET Day on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Therefore, we look forward to seeing your children return back to school on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

This Monday (20<sup>th</sup> March) is the first day of Spring – astronomically based on the vernal equinox. Let's hope it marks a seasonal change in the weather!

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jeremy Plumb  
Headteacher



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## TORPOINT STUDENTS SUCCESS IN UK INTERMEDIATE MATHS COMPETITION!

Fifty of our top mathematicians in Year's 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge last month. The maths challenge is an 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.

We would like to congratulate all the students who participated in this challenging competition, they all did very well and many students narrowly missed out on awards. An amazing twenty seven students did achieve awards and these are some of the best results the school has had in this challenge!

There were fourteen Bronze Awards for:  
Sammy, Noah, Sebastian, Sian, Isobel, Tom, Connor, Paige, Zach, Jack, Levvy, Luke, Max and Isla.

There were Twelve Silver Awards for:  
Jessica, Kobi, Jasper, Josh, Amelia, Kalina, Josiah, Jan, Ashley, Ben, Jake and Ruben.

Holly, in Year 11, was the only student to achieve a Gold Award and she also achieved the title of Best in School!

Best in Year Awards also went to Isla, Ruben and Holly.

A fantastic set of results! Well done to all of you!





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## Commonwealth Day 2023

On Monday 13th March Torpoint raised a flag at Sparrow Park to mark Commonwealth Day 2023. Councillors from Torpoint Town Council participated in this prestigious event accompanied by children from Carbeile Junior School and Torpoint Nursery and Infant School as well as students' from Torpoint Community College. Representatives from the Royal British Legion Torpoint Branch, Mike Pearn MBE Freeman of Torpoint and the Torpoint Archives and Heritage Centre also attended.

Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth is an occasion to acknowledge publicly and collectively the continuing aspiration of the Commonwealth to build on common traditions and uphold our shared values of democracy, inclusive development and respect for diversity. Commonwealth Day 2023 centres around the theme 'Forging a sustainable and peaceful common future'. This theme signifies the active commitment of member states to collaborate on climate action, support the development of free and democratic societies, and the promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all Commonwealth citizens. During this Commonwealth Year of Youth, it focuses our efforts on building a better future for the 1.5 billion Commonwealth citizens under the age of 30.

This year also sees Commonwealth member states supporting the Commonwealth of Nations Flag for Peace initiative which was launched last year in December. Commonwealth Day 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Commonwealth Charter, which was signed by Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 11 March 2013 and outlines the values and aspirations which unite the Commonwealth. This will be the first Commonwealth Day since Her Majesty's passing and the first presided over by His Majesty King Charles III as King and Head of the Commonwealth. Reading the Affirmation, 'pledging ourselves afresh to uphold and serve the values and fellowship of the Commonwealth', Town Mayor Councillor Rachel Evans BEM raised the flag, with support from Freddie and Megan, head boy and girl from Carbeile Junior School and said "It was an honour today to deliver the pledge and response on behalf of the residents' of Torpoint. The pledge affirms the Commonwealth's shared values of peace, democracy and equality and celebrates the association's diversity."

The Commonwealth is a voice for small and vulnerable states and a champion for young people. Home to 2.5 billion citizens across both developing and advanced economies, the Commonwealth is 56 countries working together for prosperity, democracy and peace. More information is available at <https://thecommonwealth.org/commonwealth-day>





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## Ten Tors Training Weekend - 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Last weekend's Ten Tors training was certainly a demanding one as we introduced our first weekend expedition.

With typical Dartmoor weather, there was strong wind and rain with visibility down to just 30 metres at times which certainly helped students understand the importance of continually checking their navigation and route cards. Both days started at the military road Y-junction near Okehampton army camp, with an overnight camp at Shortacombe. On Sunday the walk was cut short as conditions were deteriorating, with those remaining stopping at Fernworthy reservoir.

Well done to all the students who took part, and particularly to those who made it through to the end. A massive thank you (again!) to the adult volunteers who supported the students throughout the weekend.





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## TCC Swimmers Success!

On Monday March 6<sup>th</sup>, 16 students represented the College at a schools swimming relay gala at the Life Centre in Plymouth, hosted by Devonport Royal Swimming Club.

Every single student swam their heart out, despite varying levels of experience (some had never swum in a competitive situation before!)

- The KS3 girls "A" Team: Evie, Emily, Essie and Aliza – finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place.
- The KS3 girls "B" Team: Isabella, Florence, Ella and Bella – finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- The KS3 boys team: Charlie, Finlay, William and Thomas – finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place and each picked up a silver medal!!
- The KS4 boys team: Lucas, Jan, Leo and Seth – finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and each picked up a bronze medal!!

A fantastic evening was had by all and the students, as always, conducted themselves impeccably well (which was commented on by some of the officials that were there).

The highlight of the night has to be Jan, KS4 losing his goggles as he dived into the pool but he powered through regardless!!

Many thanks to June Porter, Julie Lawrence and Becky Rowe for their help and support.

If you do see any of the aforementioned swimmers in College, please do congratulate them as they all did fantastically well.

Mr Farmer



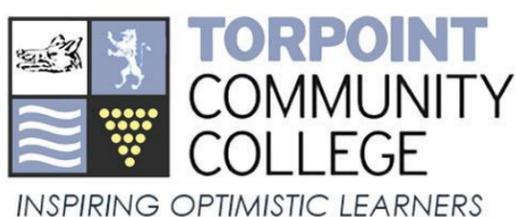


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# EARTH DAY CONCERT

Join us in a showcase of Music, Readings  
and Drama which celebrate  
Earth Day 2023: Invest in Our Planet.

Featuring our peripatetic music  
teachers and their students.

**Friday  
23<sup>th</sup> March  
6-7 pm**

Tickets:  
Adults- £3  
Students- £2

Available from Reception  
after February half term.





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**FREE**  
**EASTER**  
**Sports, Activities,**  
**Art & Food.**



**3 - 6 APRIL**

**Lunch**  
**included**

**Torpoint YMCA**  
**4 - 13 years old**  
**9am - 1pm**



**Scan QR code to book**  
**or goto website below, and follow**  
**the link to playwaze**

**FREE for those on**  
**free school meal related benefits**

[www.pro-coaching.co.uk](http://www.pro-coaching.co.uk)

[info@pro-coaching.co.uk](mailto:info@pro-coaching.co.uk)



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## HMD23 Paper Landscapes - A Rather Special Video

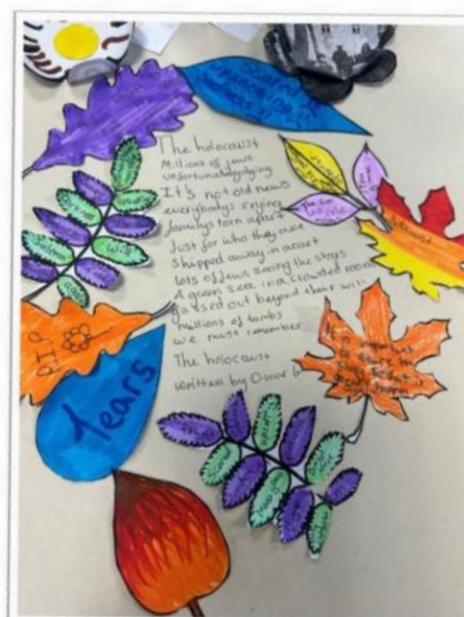
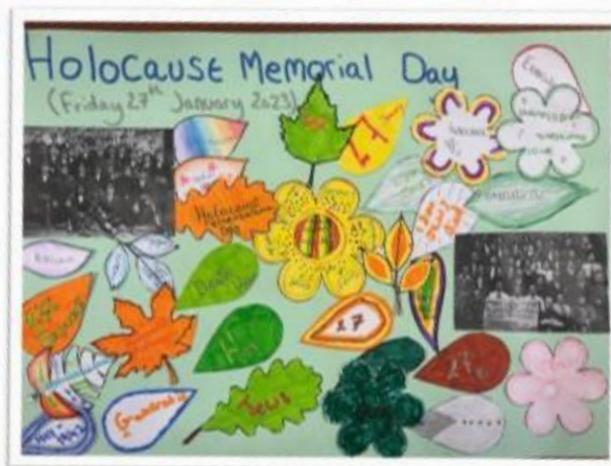
As you are aware, the History team put together a Tutor Programme to mark Holocaust Memorial Day this year – the theme for HMD23 is 'Ordinary People'. During tutor time, students followed the journey of Angela Cohen & Robert Rinder in the BBC documentary, 'My Family, The Holocaust & Me', to find out what happened to their family in the Holocaust. They then responded to Angela & Robert's journey, by creating Paper Landscapes.

We then sent Angela and Robert our HMD23 Paper Landscapes video - they sent something rather 'extraordinary' in return.

Please click the link below to view the video (4 mins 30 secs long) from Angela and Robert - I am sure you will agree that the work by our 'ordinary' young people and 'ordinary' teachers is nothing less than 'extraordinary'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyMsFzle1f0>

A huge and heartfelt thank you from the History team to those tutors who supported our young people in responding to Angela & Robert's journey in such insightful, creative and beautiful ways.





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**TICKETS ON SALE SOON!**

**FASHION  
GOES  
POP!**

**2023**

**29<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**Dance and Music rehearsals  
are well under way for this  
year's Fashion Show!**





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## Attendance Reminder

At Torpoint Community College we believe that the greater the attendance, the greater the achievement. We aim for an environment which enables and encourages all members of the community. For our students to gain the greatest benefit from their education it is vital that they attend regularly and be at College, on time, every day.

If your child is absent please contact the College as soon as possible on the first day of absence, and on each subsequent day of absence. If it is a planned absence, please complete an Absence Request Form. Please note that the law does not grant parents/carers an automatic right to take their children out of school during term time. Parents/carers can commit an offence if they fail to ensure regular and punctual attendance of their child at the school which the child is registered, unless the absence has been authorised by the school.

If your request for absence is refused and you still take your child out of school on holiday in term time then we will refer the matter to Cornwall Council and they may decide to issue a Penalty Notice. Penalty Notices for absences of 6 days or more are £60 per parent per child.



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# Attendance Policy Summary

## We have 3 basic expectations of all students:

- ✓ Attend school regularly
- ✓ Attend school punctually
- ✓ Attend school prepared for learning

## What is the role of Parents/Carers in maintaining good attendance?

Make sure their child attends every day on time

Call or email the school to report their child's absence before 8.45am ([absence@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:absence@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk))

Where possible make appointments for your child outside of the school day

Contact the school if they have any concerns about their child which will impact on their attendance

To support the college's attendance policy and to actively promote and encourage good attendance.

For any term time absence to complete an Absence Request Form— the headteacher will only authorise absence in 'exceptional circumstances'

## What does good attendance look like?

**>97%**

Students are actively encouraged to aim for attendance of 97% or above.

As a college we aim to support all students and will tailor our provision to meet student needs where there are additional factors which are a barrier to attendance

## Who are the key staff I should contact if I am worried about my child's attendance?

Tutor

Head of year / Assistant Head of year

College Attendance Officer

The designated senior leader responsible for attendance: [howard.j@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:howard.j@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk)

<90%

Persistent Absentee

<50%

Severe Absentee

Attendance	Attendance Actions
99-100%	Learning maximized. Students will receive reward certificates in termly assemblies
97-98.9%	Very few learning opportunities missed. Students will receive reward certificates in termly assemblies. Tutors will speak with student around absence and any support needed.
93-96.9%	<u>Risk of underachievement.</u> The College will write to all parents and inform them when attendance drops below 93%. HOY will look at data and identify any patterns of absence or causes for concern. Previous academic years attendance data will also be consulted.
90-92.9%	If attendance continues to fall the college may request medical evidence. Where students are a cause for concern and are at risk of becoming a <b>persistent absentee</b> , Parents/ Carers will be invited to meet with staff.
<90%	If a student's attendance continues to be a concern, at this stage, the college will seek advice from the Education Welfare Officer on legal procedures which may include penalty notices or court proceedings. Personal Attendance Plans will be used to support students whose attendance is a continued cause for concern.

**Safeguarding:** Children may be at risk of harm if they do not attend college regularly.

Safeguarding the interests of each child is everyone's responsibility



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# SAFEGUARDING YOU

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

Our main priority is that students feel safe and happy.

Email any worries to the above email address OR leave a note in our

*worry box.*

You can find it outside the library.

**Dr Plumb**



*If you have any concerns or worries, please speak to one of the child protection team.*

Or speak to a member of staff you trust and feel comfortable with.



**Mrs Lear**

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