



**TORPOINT
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**

*"INSPIRING
OPTIMISTIC LEARNERS"*

NEWSLETTER

Friday 3rd March 2023

ACADEMIC YEAR 2022/23

SPRING TERM 3rd January – 31st March



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 30th March – Face to Face
Year 7 Parents' Evening

Year 10 Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 8th March 2023, 6-7pm

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



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been another busy but exciting start to a half term at TCC. Our year 11 and 13 students are now rapidly approaching their examinations and working hard to achieve their best. As a College community we are very much focused on supporting them during this challenging period.

Welcome to March and the beginning of Spring. We started this half term with motivational workshops for year 10 and 11. These were delivered by an external speaker. All Year 11 students engaged in a workshop called "Fast Track to Success" helping to prepare students for their examinations this summer and then focusing on their exciting future ahead, covering a range of topics including their future pathways and careers. Year 10 then attended a "Positive Mind Step" workshop to focus their attention on their exciting future and their educational and career journey ahead. Student and staff feedback from both workshops was very positive, giving students lots to think about in the coming months and years ahead.

This week, Year 11 GCSE food students have been demonstrating their impressive culinary skills during their practical examinations. Many staff have had the opportunity to observe and taste the array of fabulous dishes that the students have produced, providing feedback to support this important assessment process.



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Mrs Read has delivered assemblies to Year 7, 8 and 9 this week, launching World Book Day. To celebrate and focus on World Book Day, a range of activities are planned in the coming days including quizzes, bookmark making, group book readings, the book wall, the big book swap and competitions. Students have also been given a book token. Please see the section later in this newsletter on the "Power of Poets" competition, achieved by our Year 8 and 9 published poets.

There is a Year 10 parental information evening on Wednesday 8th March, between 6 and 7 pm, where information on the mock examination process and effective revision will be shared. We look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jeremy Plumb

Headteacher



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Year 10
Parents & Carers

Parental Information Evening
Wednesday 8th March 2023

Your support is invaluable to your child this year and we hope that by working in close partnership we can secure the best possible outcomes for students.

6-7pm

In order to help parents, we will be hosting an information evening on Wednesday 8th March 2023, 6-7pm. During this evening we will share information on the Mock process, how to best support your child and how to ensure their revision is effective.





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Ten Tors Training – Saturday 25th February

Students had their last indoor Ten Tors training session on Saturday 25th February with another kit check and a number of quizzes on rules and safety. Then, early the next day they completed a circular route to and from Princetown on Dartmoor. Although the sun was out, the temperature remained low throughout the day due to the cold wind. The teams completed the walk unaccompanied and managed to finish ahead of time.

Well done to all involved and particularly the adults who ensured the students were supported throughout the two days. The next walk is an overnight expedition and hopes are high for slightly warmer conditions.





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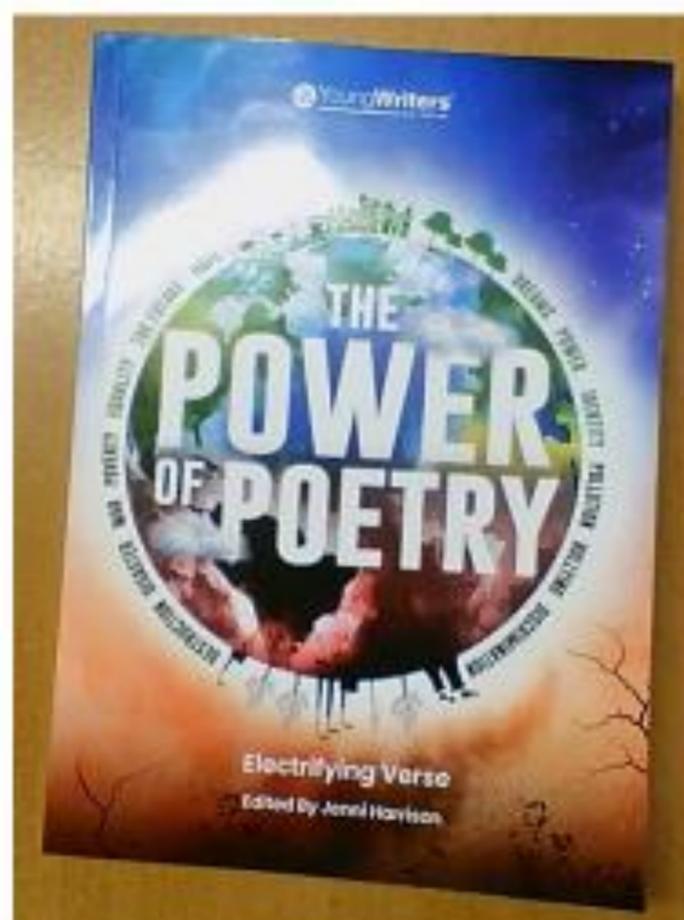
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Students' Work Published in Young Writers' *The Power of Poetry* Anthology!

Back in October 2022, a large number of students in Years 8 and 9 submitted entries to the 'Power of Poetry' competition run by Young Writers – and of all who entered, a fantastic 18 of our students have had their poems published and can now call themselves published poets!



This competition prompted students to write a poem about any topic that was important to them and to use their poem as a platform to share their views.

A huge congratulations goes out to all who were published: Grace, Melissa, Lincoln, Levvy, Isla, Abi, Ollie, Rory, Freya, Amber, Elyse, Poppy, Rhys, Charlie, Florence, Alfie, Emma and Lucas.

The next Young Writers competition is already open for entries! This one is called 'Integers' and asks for 100-word stories inspired by numbers. If you are a student who is interested in entering, or a parent/guardian who thinks your child might be interested, get your 100-word stories (with your name on it) to Mrs Hodgkinson by Thursday 30th March.





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Trip to Duchy College Experience Day

On Wednesday 22nd February, Year 10 and Year 11 students visited Duchy College near Callington to find out about the range of courses and apprenticeships they offer. Duchy College is a land-based college and offers vocational courses and apprenticeships in animal management, equine studies, agricultural engineering and many others.

Duchy College offers a range of courses including a Football Academy and a Military Academy, the latter, prepares students for the Armed Services, Police, Fire Service or Security Forces. It was great to hear students discussing their future options, students can apply to a course at Duchy College after year 11 or after year 13.

Well done to all the students involved with the trip. More information about Duchy College can be seen on their website and their next open evening is on 22nd March, from 5 to 7 pm.

Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 have also attended assemblies from Duchy College this academic year to help them find out more about the opportunities for their future study.

Mrs Bray, Careers Leader





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YONEX
ALL ENGLAND OPEN
BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS



SESSION: TORPOINT BADMINTON CLUB

TIME: 8pm - 10pm

DATE: WEDNESDAY MARCH 15

LOCATION: YMCA Torpoint and Rame Community Sports Centre

HOW TO BOOK: Email: torpointbc@gmail.com

Find out more at badmintonengland.co.uk

BADMINTON
ENGLAND



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WORLD BOOK DAY

7TH MARCH

BOOK SWAP READINGS
ACTIVITIES

Join us in the library



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WORLD BOOK DAY

TCC LIBRARY

Book Swap

Bring a book from
home and swap for
something new to
read
or
Buy a book for 10p

Activities

Book quizzes
Review wall
Make a bookmark
Book Readings



7TH MARCH



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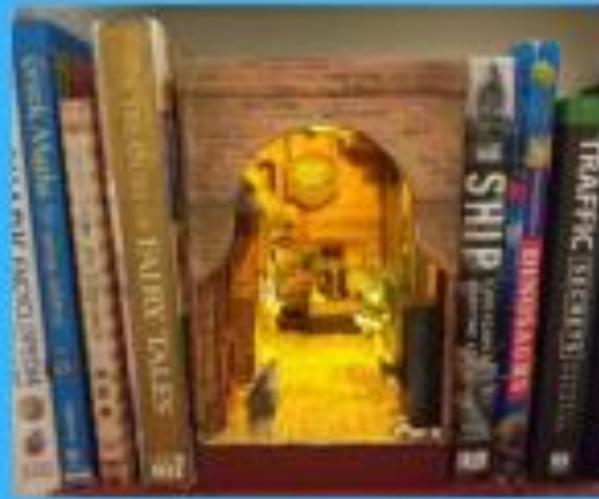
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COMPETITION

Design and make a
Book Nook



CLOSES 24TH MARCH



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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

Snapchat is a photo- and video-sharing app which also allows users to chat with friends via text or audio. Users can share images and videos with specific friends, or through a 'story' (documenting the previous 24 hours) visible to their entire friend list. Snapchat usage rose during the pandemic, with many young people utilising it to connect with their peers. The app continues to develop features to engage an even larger audience and emulate current trends, rivalling platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects on the app with people they know, they may still receive friend requests from strangers. Snapchat's links with apps such as Wink and Hoop have increased this possibility. Accepting a request means that children are then disclosing personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features. This could allow predators to gain their trust for sinister purposes.

EXCESSIVE USE

There are many features that are attractive to users and keep them excited about the app. Snap streaks encourage users to send snaps daily, Spotlight Challenges give users to the chance to obtain money and online fame, and the Spotlight feature's scroll of videos makes it easy for children to spend hours watching content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat are not suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's Discover function lets users swipe through snippets of news stories and trending articles that often include adult content. There is currently no way to turn off this feature.

SEXTING

Sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse. While these pictures do disappear – and the sender is notified if it has been screenshot first – users have found alternative methods to save images, such as taking pictures with a separate device.

DAMAGE TO CONFIDENCE

Snapchat's filters and lenses are a popular way for users to enhance their 'selfie game'. Although many are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' filters on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Comparing themselves unfavourably against other Snapchat users could threaten a child's confidence or sense of self-worth.

VISIBLE LOCATION

My Places lets users check in and search for popular spots nearby – such as restaurants, parks or shopping centres – and recommend them to their friends. The potential issue with a young person consistently checking into locations on Snapchat is that it allows other users in their friends list (even people they have only ever met online) to see where they currently are and where they regularly go.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add function helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this feature could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).

CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

Snapchat has recently announced that it is rolling out a new safety feature: users will receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.

TALK ABOUT SEXTING

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it is important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Discuss the legal implications of sending, receiving or sharing explicit images, as well as the possible emotional impact. Emphasise that your child should never feel pressured into sexting – and that if they receive unwanted explicit images, they should tell a trusted adult straight away.

CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

Talk to your child about what is and isn't wise to share on Snapchat (e.g. don't post explicit images or videos, or display identifiable details like their school uniform). Remind them that once something is online, the creator loses control over where it might end up – and who with. Additionally, Snapchat's 'Spotlight' feature has a #challenge like TikTok's: it's vital that your child understands the potentially harmful consequences of taking part in these challenges.

KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Your child can send Snaps directly to friends, but Stories are visible to everyone they have added, unless they change the settings. If they use SnapMaps, their location is visible unless 'Ghost Mode' is enabled (again via settings). It's prudent to emphasise the importance of not adding people they don't know in real life. This is particularly important with the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchatters to see the places your child regularly visits and checks in. Additionally, it's important to be cautious about Shared Stories as this allows people who are not on your contact list access to the post.

BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending explicit images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and choose report or block. There are options to state why they are reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: Status of Mind: Social media and young people's mental health | Life in Likes - Children's Commissioners Report | <https://support.snapchat.com/en-US/https://natsanity.net/snapchat-parent-review/> | BT.com | Independent.co.uk | <https://mashable.com/article/snapchat-status-snap-maps/europe=true> | eSafety Commissioner, (2017), Young People and Sexting - Attitudes and Behaviours: Research Findings from the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Amended: 04.07.2022



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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.

Clear Night Skies!

Mrs Englefield managed to snap a fantastic picture of the night sky last week where you can see the moon as well as the planets Jupiter and Venus!





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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
23th March
6-7 pm**

Tickets:
Adults- £3
Students- £2

Available from Reception
after February half term.





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TICKETS ON SALE SOON!

**FASHION
GOES
POP!**

2023

29th JUNE

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





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TORPOINT RAMPS FORUM PRESENTS

TWO FREE SKATE PARK TRIPS

Sunday 12th March @ Prime Skatepark (Plymouth)
Sunday 26th March @ Bodmin Skatepark



JOIN IN AND HAVE YOUR SAY IN WHAT
TORPOINT SKATE PARK COULD BE LIKE

Free transport for young people. Snacks and drinks provided.
Limited to 25 places. For timings and to sign up use the QR code >

skatepark@thanckes.org.uk



SCAN ME



TWO FREE SKATE PARK TRIPS

An exciting opportunity for young people (and their families) to get involved in two trips to local skateparks. Thanks to Cornwall Community Foundation, *Friends of Thanckes Park* are kickstarting Torpoint Ramps Forum and are exploring what a really good skatepark looks like (working with Torpoint Town Council) to see how local facilities can be improved, we want young people to lead on this journey. To sign up for the trip (only 25 places)

visit; <https://form.jotform.com/230534446620349> or for more information contact skatepark@thanckes.org.uk



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EMOTIONAL, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING



money and mental health

With rising bills and the cost-of-living crisis dominating national conversation it is inevitable that many of us will be worried about money.

Everyone's circumstances vary widely and so the situation will impact us all differently. Whatever the situation YoungMinds can help. Their guide online at <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/money-and-mental-health/> can has advice on taking care of yourself as well as looking after your child's wellbeing. You'll also find information about how to find practical and financial support for your family.

Money worries are a common source of stress and can become overwhelming.

The short video on this link <https://youtu.be/1KYC5SsJjx8> by Braive (a mental health charity) shows how this can happen and gives some suggestions to help manage stress.

Upcoming dates

- ♥ 19th March: **World sleep day**
- ♥ 15th - 21st March: **Nutrition and hydration week**
- ♥ April: **Stress awareness month**
- ♥ 7th April: **World Health Day**
- ♥ 8th April: **International Women's Day**

*Best wishes
Miss Pine*



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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)

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

<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 persistent absentee , 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

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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