

MBL07/23



Inspiring Optimistic Learners

20th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Academic Year 2023-2024

Thank you for your support again this year. I know that students are very much looking forward to their summer break, but it won't be long before we start a new Academic Year. The aim of this letter is to give you an overview of what is planned in 2023/24 and to provide information to help you get ready for the new academic year.

Please see the table below for some key dates in 2023/24:

	Year	Event
28/09/23	Y5/6	TCC Open Evening 2023
10/10/23	Y7 8 9 10 11	Virtual Tutor Support Evening
16/11/24	Y11	Post 16 Open evening
07/12/24	Y11	Parents Evening
16/01/24	Y9	Options Evening
25/01/24	Y9	Parents Evening
07/02/24	Y11	Mock results evening
22/02/24	Post 16	Parents evening
29/02/24	Y10	Parents Evening
06/06/24	Y8	Parents Evening
19/06/24	Y5 and 6	Year 6 Transition evening
27/06/24	Y7	Parents Evening
11/07/24	Y7 8 9 10 11	TCC Awards Evening at HMS Raleigh

Year 13 students will receive their A Level results on 17th August and Year 11 their GCSE results, a week later, on 24th August 2023.

In September we have a staggered start to the term, as follows:

Tuesday 5th September 2023 - **Year 7 and 12 return**

Wednesday 6th September 2023 - **All year groups return.**

We believe, based on the feedback from our students, that they feel safe at the College; safeguarding is always a College priority. However, should they have any concerns that they do not feel confident to report in person, the College has a confidential e-mail address they may wish to use:

worries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk. This email address is overseen by the College's Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Torpoint Community College
Trevol Road
Torpoint
Cornwall, PL11 2NH

tel: 01752 812 511
fax: 01752 815 014
email: enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk
web: www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

We hope the following key information enclosed will help you get ready for the new academic year:

- College Uniform
- Student wellbeing
- Equipment needed for learning at TCC
- Marking and Feedback
- Attendance
- Homework: Satchel one website
- Information and Communication at TCC
- Use of Mobile Phone and E-Safety
- New to TCC
- Sixth Form at TCC.

Do look out for the College newsletter which is regularly published on our website and via the College's Facebook page. This is a great way to keep up-to-date with all of the exciting work going on at the College and help us to celebrate the successes of our wonderful students.

Please email enquiries@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk if you require any further information.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Ms Blandin-Neaves
Senior Assistant Headteacher

College Uniform

School uniform is often in the news, whether it's about how the cost is prohibitive for many families, or students producing petitions about skirts, trousers or shorts. At Torpoint Community College the DfE guidance on school uniform, which is non-statutory, is followed as a guide and provides sensible and practical actions that are considered, such as keeping branded items to a minimum.

The College takes pride in our students following the College uniform policy, and when in full uniform our students look very smart, professional and are ready to learn. Our College uniform is not discriminatory under the Equality Act 2010, where our students may choose to wear a skirt, trousers or shorts. We ask our students to wear their blazer, tie, black shoes and tuck their shirt/blouse into their skirt, trousers or shorts.

Towards the end of this term, we have made some reasonable adjustments to our uniform due to warm weather and students have been able to leave their blazer at home. However, during the summer term the standard of uniform has fallen, including inappropriate footwear, white socks, non-uniform tops and very short skirts. I would like to take this opportunity to sign post our students and their families to the College uniform policy that can be found on the College website, a summary is also given below, so this can be addressed for September 2023. Thank you for your support with uniform.

Students are expected to arrive at College and to leave the premises in uniform. We ask parents to follow both the letter and the spirit of the uniform policy which in turn will ensure that staff time is focused on the teaching, learning and wellbeing of the students and not with uniform indiscretions.

We strongly believe in working with parents to achieve uniform resolution if need be. If you are unsure about the College's dress code please contact the College for clarification.

Black College Blazer: with logo (as purchased via SWI).

White Collared Shirt: tucked into trousers or skirts (not see through) and white shirts must have white or clear buttons (Plain skin coloured vest tops maybe worn underneath the shirts).

College Tie: Clip on navy/sky striped (as purchased via SWI).

Skirts: Black "classic" style skirt that is either straight or pleated. Skirts should not be tight or made of stretchy fabric. The hem of the skirt should be no more than 10cm above the knee.

Trousers: Plain, black "classic" style trousers. These should be straight legged and not tight. There should be no large belts, zips on the sides or buckles and belts should be plain black. Trousers should not be made out of a denim fabric, chino's or leather.

Shorts: Plain black "city" shorts or tailored black shorts. Not cargo style or sports shorts.

Shoes: Black shoes of sensible design with low heels. Shoes should protect and support feet to comply with the College's Health & Safety Regulations. No stilettos, boots (including ankle boots) or platform shoes. Shoes must have no coloured visible brand, laces, soles or labels.

Tights and Socks: Tights – plain black (no pattern) or flesh coloured. Socks – plain black, grey or dark blue and below the knee.

Hats and Head Covering: No hats to be worn in College unless medical reasons are provided. The wearing of a head scarf or hijab, for religious reasons, is permitted.

Jewellery: One pair of small discreet ear lobe studs may be worn and only one small discreet ring on the finger. Ear stretchers are not permitted neither are earrings or body piercings. No facial piercings are permitted; this includes tongue piercings. A wristwatch and a maximum of one bracelet may be worn.

Hair/Hair Ornaments: Extreme and exaggerated hair colouring or style and cuts are not acceptable. The colour of hair should be within the natural range. Also, for example, grade 2 and above is acceptable and tramlines are not acceptable. If you are unsure please contact the College for clarification. Plain hairbands may be worn.

Make-up and Nails: The make-up worn should be discreet and appropriate for a school environment. Nail varnish should be clear.

Full uniform must be worn at all times when students are on the College site (grounds and buildings) and as directed by staff. Permission may be sought from staff to remove a blazer during the lesson if appropriate. Students may remove blazers in exceptional circumstances, when taking part in a physical activity at break and lunchtimes outside or if the Headteacher deems that weather conditions mean that students should be given permission to remove blazers. This may happen in the last half term of the summer term.

Any breaches to the Uniform and Dress Code will result in sanctions when first noticed during daily routines or regular checks. This is in line with our Behaviour Policy and will ultimately be at the discretion of the Headteacher where a specific breach is not contained in the policy.

TCC: A Healthy School that cares about Student Wellbeing

We are proud of the pastoral care that we provide to our students, and we have been working on strategies to develop Emotional Resilience in young people, endeavouring to ensure that they are equipped for the challenges of life. We know that mental health issues affect many people, so it is important for young people to have skills to manage their health.

At Torpoint Community College we believe that all our learners have the right to be physically, mentally, and socially healthy and to learn in an environment that promotes this ethos and allows them to reach their full potential. We know that healthy students are better learners, and we relish every opportunity to facilitate good health. We understand that being a Healthy School is much more than just healthy eating and physical activity but rather a healthy school is one that works together, going beyond the classroom and involving the whole community. We pride ourselves in ensuring all our learners are supported to be physically, mentally, and socially healthy and that they develop the necessary life skills for long-term success.

To this end, we ask that students do not bring any fizzy or energy drinks into College. These drinks do not contain sufficient nutrients to support a healthy mind and body and are high in calories and sugar. We also ask that students do not bring family size bags of snacks or biscuits. Studies show a strong link between soda consumption and childhood obesity and tooth decay. Dentists are reporting complete loss of the enamel on the front teeth in teenage boys and girls who habitually drink sodas. Caffeine found in cola and energy drinks is known to create physical dependence and upsets the normal balance of neurochemistry in the developing brains of children. Caffeine stimulates the adrenal gland without providing the nourishment it needs. In large amounts, caffeine can lead to adrenal exhaustion, especially in children.

We thank you for supporting us in encouraging our students to be successful healthy learners.

Equipment Needed for learning

Students are expected to have their own pencil case with the TC6 (listed below) with them every day:

1. Pen (Blue or Black)
2. Pencil
3. Ruler
4. Eraser
5. Calculator- Casio fx-83gtx Classwiz
6. Student handbook (these will be provided to students when they join us)

Other useful equipment:

- Colouring Pencils
- Highlighters
- Glue stick
- Colour pen/s (No permanent markers or Sharpies please)

Please note that we do not allow students to bring toys or fidget toys into College, unless agreed via a Targeted Support Plan to support additional needs; this must be approved by our College SENCO.

Marking and feedback

One of the ways in which we help each student to make great progress at Torpoint is through Marking and Feedback. When students have their work assessed, teachers will give students specific, subject-related feedback on what they have to do to improve. They will then be given time in lessons to make that improvement and, often, comment on how they have done it. This is a genuine dialogue between staff and students about how to make progress and improve work.

Attendance

At Torpoint Community College we believe that the greater the attendance, the greater 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 the regular and punctual attendance of their child at the College which the child is registered, unless the absence has been authorised by the College. If your request for absence is refused and you still take your child out of College on holiday in term time, then we will refer the matter to Cornwall County Council and they may decide to issue a Penalty Notice. Penalty Notices for absences of 5 days are £60 per parent per child.

For more information please refer to the College's Attendance Policy which can be found on our website.

Homework: Satchel One

All teachers and students use the website Satchel One to set and record homework. In September every Year 7 student and parent will be given their own unique login details. This will allow them to check their individual homework on any computer, tablet or smartphone. There is a free app for iPhone and Android to make this even easier, and this will send students reminders when homework is due in and allow teachers to attach resources to help students complete their homework. Satchel One can also be accessed through the school website.

Information and Communication at TCC

We endeavour to reply to all emails or letters to the College as soon as possible and certainly within three working days or sooner. We also have a Parent Code of Conduct in respect of how parents and carers communicate with staff. Please take the time to read this document on the College's website.

First point of contact

The first Point of Contact (PoC) at the College is the **tutor**. They will be able to answer questions on uniform, reports, homework and day to day routines. All staff e-mail addresses are composed of their surname followed by their initial and then @torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk e.g. Miss C Lindup will be lindup.c@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Heads of Years from September 2023

Year 7: Lindup.c@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Year 8: Dolmore.s@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Year 9: Hext.L@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Year 10: Shiel.E@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Year 11: Howard.j@torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk

Use of Mobile Phone (digital devices) and E Safety

Mobile phones and smart watches must not be seen or heard anywhere on the College site. Students are not permitted to bring their mobile phones to College. If parents/carers have requested they students carry them, the phones must be switched off and kept in their bags.

Parents and carers are reminded that students who choose to bring mobile phones and other devices into College do so at their own risk and students must adhere to the College acceptable use policy at all times.

As we know these devices can be a fantastic way to communicate and gain knowledge, but as reported in the news there are potential dangers. All students receive e-safety training covering cyberbullying, child exploitation and anti-extremism.

We advise all parents and carers to:

- Regularly monitor their child's internet use
- Check privacy settings
- Report any concerns to the relevant agency (see link below).

<http://www.torpoint.cornwall.sch.uk/e-safety/>

We fully support parents to be proactive in safeguarding their children and close any accounts which may be putting them at risk.

New to TCC

For all parents and carers of our new students who will be joining us in September 2023, uniform is available to order from SWI online at <http://www.swischoolwear.co.uk/>. For anyone who does not have access to the internet then blank order forms are available from the College.

If your child will be using our catering facility, can you please ensure there is credit on their Cashless Catering Account (through ParentPay) for the start of term as the College does not provide an authorised overdraft facility. For children entitled to a Free School Meal, their Cashless Catering Account will be credited daily by the College.

Sixth Form at TCC

We are very proud of our Sixth Form here at Torpoint Community College, Miss Bell will be the new Head of Sixth from September 2023. During the Autumn Term there will be information assemblies for Year 10 and Year 11 students about staying on at our Sixth Form. Miss Bell will be running Year 11 Options Interviews before Christmas where students can find out about the range of A Level and Post 16 courses available and apply for a place here.

There will also be the Post 16 Open Evening on Thursday 16th November 2023 where there will be an opportunity to speak to subject teachers of all Post 16 subjects as well as current students taking the courses.